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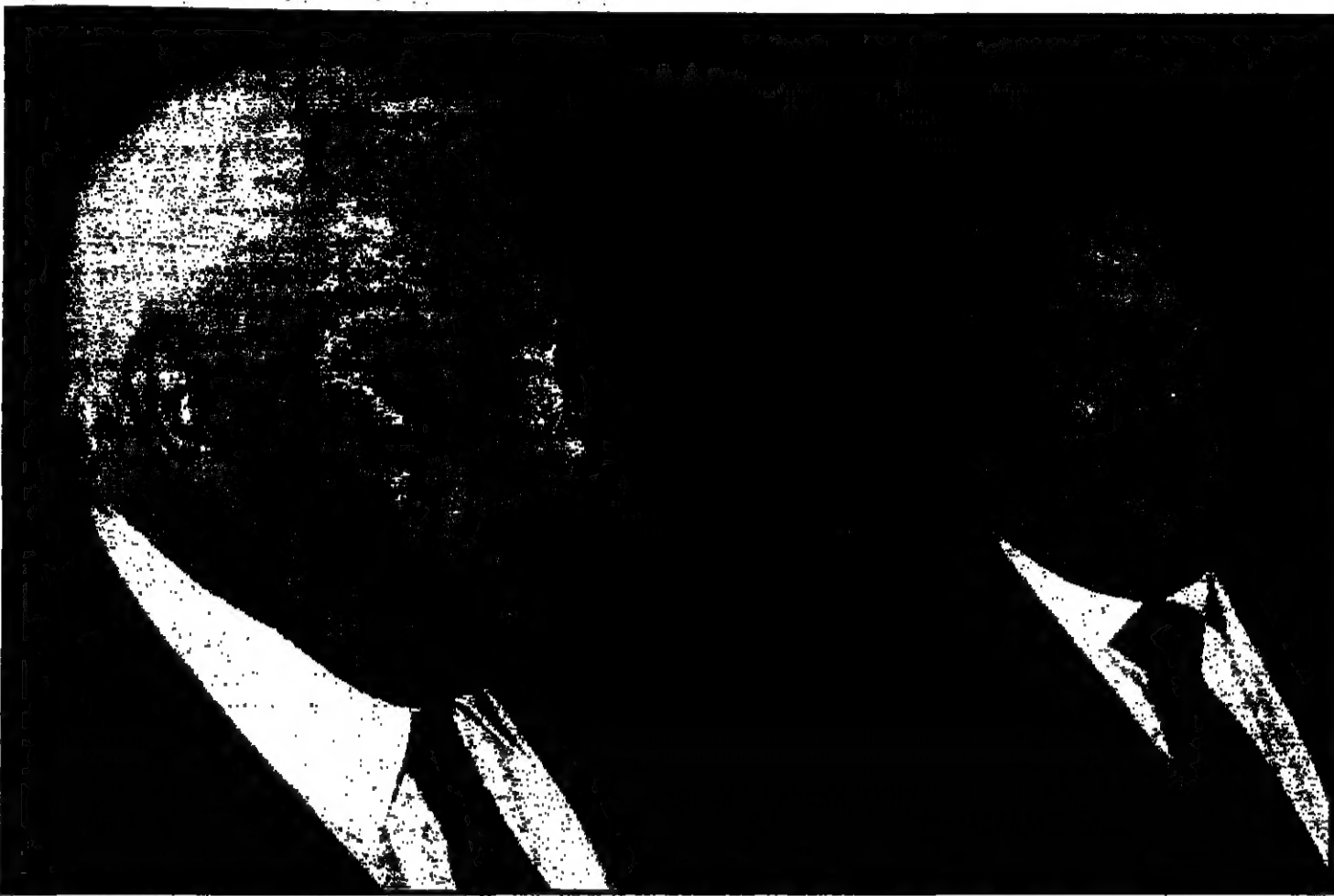
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National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon meets yesterday with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan in Amman.

Sharon, Hussein discuss projects as Mashaal-affair wounds heal

By DAVID HARRIS

AMMAN — Israel's recently strained relations with Jordan are rapidly improving. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said last night following meetings with King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan.

Sharon's visit to Amman was the first by an Israeli minister since the Cichanover Report on the botched attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal came out last month.

Sharon said that "the problem has gone. The desire of Jordan is to push ahead to reach as wide as possible cooperation in the region."

The countries agreed to press ahead with a series of bilateral projects, including improving Israeli water supply to Jordan and the construction of a canal to pump water from the Gulf of Eilat to the Dead Sea to generate electricity.

In a joint statement, Hussein stressed "the importance of implementing issues agreed upon between the two sides in preparation for entering into negotiations regarding final status on the way toward achieving a just, durable, and comprehensive peace."

Turning to the Palestinian issue, Sharon told reporters that "talk of a freeze in relations with the Palestinian Authority are exaggerated. There is a preparedness on Israel's part to push ahead with peace. In recent days there may have been a slowdown because of Palestinian hopes for a US program or maybe US pressure. I don't believe that pressure will come from the US."

The meeting between Sharon and Hussein lasted 90 minutes, with the two speaking alone for almost an hour. The session was delayed for some time as Hussein returned from a surprise visit to Egypt, where he met with President Hosni Mubarak.

Earlier in the day, Sharon met Hassan and also Jordan's Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin, who is responsible for joint projects with Israel.

While Sharon came principally to discuss infrastructure and other joint projects, he told journalists he was given carte blanche to discuss all issues, including the second redeployment in the West Bank.

"This is a subject the government has discussed and decided what Israel can do without taking major risks. I think the view of the gov-

ernment is the same today as it was then," Sharon said at the Allenby Bridge on his way to Jordan. "I have a mandate to discuss every issue that I know very well, what Israel's restrictions are, and what steps pose less of a threat and what percentage would be a greater danger."

An Israeli source said that "this could be a very dramatic and important week — if we have a little luck."

Sources said four developments could provide a turning point in relations with Jordan:

- The appointment of Ephraim Halevy as new Mossad chief has been largely welcomed in Jordan and is some form of consolation for what Amman sees as a very disappointing Cichanover Report.

- Sharon's visit. While he is not viewed as being popular with the Jordanians, the king believes he can deliver the goods.

- Today, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is scheduled to visit Jordan in the hope that he can resolve various problems that have recently come to light concerning trade.

- Following a visit to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in

Ramallah today, Hassan will meet Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tomorrow in Tel Aviv. The sources say that Hassan is expecting moves from Israel on the bilateral front and also concerning the peace process.

Before meeting Sharon, Haddadin told *The Jerusalem Post* that since his visit to Jerusalem two weeks ago, three groups of foreign investors have visited him in Amman and said they want to participate in major joint infrastructure projects.

Israeli and American businesspeople met him to discuss the construction of a rail line from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea. A second group has expressed interest in developing tourism in the Jordan Valley, and a third is interested in the expansion of free trade industrial zones on the border.

"You know it takes two to tango and the atmosphere for strong joint cooperation has not been the best," he said.

"It's difficult to keep investors interested in projects when they have one foot inside the door and they take it back when they hear about a bombing here or a bombing there."

PM warms to EU peace role

Blair to visit Israel next month

By DOUGLAS DAVIS, JAY BUSHINSKY, and agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected British Prime Minister Tony Blair's suggestion that settlement activity be halted, but said he would welcome an increased role for the European Union in the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile, Blair's office announced that he will visit the region next month, in Britain's capacity as rotating president of the EU.

On his way back from his trip to Western Europe last night, Netanyahu said that the Oslo Accords do not bar the establishment of new settlements or the expansion of existing ones.

Netanyahu was quoted as having told Blair that he cannot undertake "extraneous conditions" when the Palestinians are not fulfilling the obligations they undertook.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was said to have been eager to win acceptance of Great Britain's formula for headway in the peace process. Sources estimated that the EU would endorse it, but indicated that it is unacceptable to Israel.

David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's director of communications, described the four-nation trip as "a reaffirmation of the prime minister's commitment to the Oslo Accords."

He said the plans Netanyahu presented to his Spanish, German, Norwegian, and British hosts "were all in framework of Oslo" and that he "has every intention to fulfill them as long as the Palestinians fulfill their commitments."

Official sources said that some American officials may resent "Netanyahu's success" in dealing with the Europeans, a reference to reports that officials around Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that Netanyahu's European swing was meant to distract attention from the stalled Palestinian track.

They said Palestinian spokesmen have been making "almost identical allegations," noting that they have been vehemently denied by Israeli officials.

During their meeting, Blair told Netanyahu that he sees an "urgent need" for progress in the peace process, especially on the issue of redeployment, according to a Downing Street spokesman. The meeting was described as friendly and constructive.

"We want to move with the Palestinians and we want to withdraw from Lebanon," Netanyahu told reporters after the meeting. Asked for more details about the talks, Netanyahu said that those would be "best left on a confidential basis to see if we can proceed with them."

It is understood that Netanyahu sought support for security arrangements with the Palestinians and Israel's plan to withdraw from Lebanon, but the British side, which included EU peace envoy Miguel Moratinos, was not ready to be drawn into such imbroglio.

Instead, it was determined to focus attention on an enhanced EU role in peace diplomacy — at least with the Palestinians — and the implementation of Israel's existing commitments.

These include the lifting of restrictions on Palestinians seek-

ing to work in Israel, the creation of industrial zones in Gaza, the establishment of a seaport and an airport for Gaza, and the creation of a "safe passage" route between the West Bank and Gaza. Also on the agenda were what the British describe as "substantial, credible, and urgent further redeployments" in the West Bank and a halt to "all expansion of settlements."

British officials are likely to have lectured Netanyahu on their concern over falling Palestinian living standards caused by closure and the limited effect of EU aid as a result of what they perceive to be Israeli-imposed obstacles to economic development of the Palestinian-controlled areas.

Significance was attached to Blair's warm greeting when he met Netanyahu on the steps of 10 Downing Street and his relatively curt farewell, with Blair turning sharply on his heel and leaving Netanyahu in the bitterly cold late afternoon to field questions alone from the waiting media.

Nonetheless, the Downing Street spokesman said after the meeting that "Prime Minister Netanyahu looked forward to welcoming [Blair] when he visits the Middle East shortly after Easter."

The spokesman said Blair would visit other Middle Eastern countries during his trip, but declined to give further details or dates.

Cook plans a trip to the region next week. He is to visit Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian areas, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

Earlier yesterday, before leaving Oslo for London, Netanyahu said Norway still has a role to play in the peace process.

See PM, Page 2

US must consult prior to Iraq attack — Annan

By JEN ABRAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said yesterday that, contrary to US assertions, the US would need to consult with the Security Council before mounting a military strike against Iraq.

"If the United States had to strike, I think some sort of consultations with the other members would be required," Annan said on ABC-TV's news program *This Week with Sam Donaldson and Katie Roberts*.

Annan stressed that if Iraq breaks the agreement on full access for UN weapons inspectors he reached with President Saddam Hussein, "it would be much easier to get agreement in the council to take military action."

But he noted that three permanent members, Russia, France and China, have objected to giving the US carte blanche to launch military action.

President Bill Clinton's administration insists that previous resolutions, including that mandating arms inspections in April 1991, give it the necessary legal authority for unilateral action in the event of Iraqi violations.

But the administration consulted extensively with other UN members and allies around the world as it prepared to attack Iraq last month over the stonewalling of UN inspection teams.

The attack was averted narrowly when Annan went to Baghdad and convinced Saddam that he must open all sites to weapons inspectors.

Annan also said that the Security Council should consider a request from Russia that a Russian be named as a second deputy on the UN weapons inspection commission.

Bill Richardson, US ambassador to the UN, has indicated the US might veto that request.

Russia has been sympathetic to Iraq's demands for the end of economic sanctions.

Green Bay Packers' minister of defense

By JOE HOFFMAN

The only job Reggie White has more fun doing beside sacking a quarterback is preaching the gospel.

The All-Pro defensive end of the National Football League Super Bowl finalists Green Bay Packers is here leading the Wisconsin Pilgrimage, a flock of 310 Christians who have come to see the wonders of the Bible come to life.

Since the group arrived a week ago, the preacher man, known throughout the NFL as "the minister of defense," took the group to the Galilee, the Jordan River — where he baptized the faithful — and a whirlwind tour of Jerusalem, which included the Holyland Hotel, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, the Old City, and Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

"Reggie is about as close to royalty as we get here," said Elisha Ben-Yitzhak, president of Heavenly International Tours.

To prove his point, White was presented in a Bethlehem restaurant with a giant cake festooned

with garlands of green and yellow, the Packers' colors.

White divvied up the goods with a giant saber, probably last used by the Emperor Suleiman.

White could best be described as a gentle giant.

The 1.98 meter, 132 kilo lineman with arms as big as New Jersey, who admits the highlight of his game is "getting a good lick" on the quarterback, was ambled down the aisle of the tour bus, checking on the comfort of his flock and citing the appropriate biblical passage for each site that was passed. His speech is peppered with homilies and metaphors of generosity and humility.

"We are here to learn," the 12-time Pro Bowler said, "and to experience the events that are mentioned in the scriptures. The Bible is as much a history book as a system of religious beliefs."

White's career in the ministry began about the same time he launched his pro career, a short stay with the Memphis Showboats of the defunct United States Football League in the early 1980s.

See GREEN BAY, Page 24

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NEWS

in brief

Haredim protest Shabbat store openings

Thousands of haredim demonstrated in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim section yesterday to protest the Tel Aviv City Council decision to permit stores to open on Shabbat.

Rabbis attending the protest placed a ban on the Toys 'R' Us and Hypertony chains, whose stores are open on Shabbat. *Itim*

Barak slams uncooperative party leaders

Labor Party chairman MK Ehud Barak attacked certain leading party members yesterday, saying that they are not contributing to party unity.

There are people among us that don't understand their role, and are acting in a manner that I cannot understand," he said at a meeting of the Labor Party faction in Upper Nazareth. "I intend to return the Labor Party to power with them or without them. But I will not to myself who is helping and who seems to be sabotaging." *Itim*

Maxim Levy to fight restrictive Histadrut rule

The Histadrut Parliament decided yesterday that one would have to have been a member of the union since September to be eligible to run or to vote in June's elections.

The decision means that Geshar MK Maxim Levy, who joined the Histadrut only this year, would not be able to run for chairman of the federation as he had planned.

Calling the decision "anti-democratic" and comparing it to something "out of the Stalin era," Levy said that "the weakened saw the polls and made a stupid decision," and that he would initiate legal action today to try to overturn the decision. *Itim*

Hamas activists sentenced

Balal Rabah and Majdi Bekirat, both 20 and from Sur Baher, were sentenced to 19 and 21 months in jail by a military court yesterday. They were found guilty of belonging to Hamas, planning to abduct and murder IDF soldiers, handing out Hamas leaflets, and transferring messages to Hamas activists in prison. The two pleaded guilty. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Two injured in chase after car thieves

Two people were injured during the course of a police chase after two Palestinians who stole a car in the Haifa area and were originally believed to be terrorists wearing kipot who were trying to kidnap soldiers. The stolen car was spotted by police at a roadblock that had been set up at the Megidjo junction. Police said the driver tried to run down a policeman who tried to stop the vehicle which later hit another car, slightly injuring the woman driver. Police fired warning shots as the suspects fled on foot, and a truck driver who was passing was hit in the foot and lightly hurt. The two suspects, one of them a juvenile, both from the Jenin area were caught. *David Rudge*

Look what the cat dragged in!

Two students were astounded yesterday when they returned to their Jerusalem apartment to find a piece of rotting meat on the couch which they later discovered to be a human penis. It had apparently been brought into the ground-floor apartment in the Ramat Sharet neighborhood through an open window by a cat.

"I immediately searched the entire house," one of the students said, "because I thought I might find other body parts." The police were then called.

Asst.-Cmdr. Effi Tibi said police searched the area because the advanced state of decay of the penis led them to believe a body would be found. The search will continue today.

The students, meanwhile, have already asked their relatives for a new couch. *Itim*

Mordechai reviews French troops

As a guest of the French army, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai observed a maneuver of the second division in eastern France yesterday. The exercise involved tank, artillery and infantry troops firing live ammunition. Today Mordechai plans a several hour visit to the Netherlands for meetings with government leaders in The Hague. *Itim*

Ben-Elissar: PM junior aides after me

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar believes he was the target of politically-motivated criticism, some of which emanated from "lower-level staff" in the Prime Minister's Office, the purpose of which was to undermine his position.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Ben-Elissar deplored the "recent series of leaks and rumors to the effect that a candidate has been chosen to replace me."

The reference evidently was to ex-ambassador Zalman Shoval who reportedly was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's preference to take over the Washington embassy. Shoval served in this post from 1990 to 1993. Late last month, when his name came up in the media as a potential successor to

Ben-Elissar, he said he would "fulfill his duty" if called upon by the government despite the personal inconvenience this might cause.

"I do not want to go into the substance of this matter," Shoval said yesterday, when asked about his alleged candidacy. He contended that recent media reports of his activities in the diplomatic sphere "are regrettable and simply not true."

Ben-Elissar did not mention any names in his review of the events that led up to his current pique, but referred in a TV interview to someone being ready to serve in his stead.

He alleged that "someone has offered his candidacy to replace me." Shoval reacted by saying, "I regret what Ben-Elissar said."

Ben-Elissar noted that "at first, I did not

pay any attention to all this, but when I saw that it is continuing, I had no alternative other than to accept a request that I appear on TV and talk about the work I have been doing."

He said he was reinforced and encouraged by his latest conversation with Netanyahu in which full and unequivocal confidence was expressed in his performance.

The accolade he received from Netanyahu also applied to his deputy, Lenny (Davis) Ben-David, he went on, saying, "He works very hard."

Shoval came in for a verbal drubbing, however, when Ben-Elissar cited a passage in ex-secretary of state James Baker's memoirs that recalled an incident in 1991 when Baker, enraged by Shoval's having complained that the Bush administration was

giving Israel "the run-around" in delaying loan guarantees necessary to absorb the influx of Soviet Jews, considered declaring him persona non grata.

A senior government aide close to Netanyahu indicated that the prime minister maintains close and constant contact with Shoval and considered sending him to the US last week to explain Israeli policy on the peace process to Congress and the American public.

However, the Clinton administration's apparent decision to postpone presentation of an American plan designed to break the current deadlock with the Palestinian Authority made Netanyahu prefer to have Shoval address the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem instead.

1,554 officers sign peace petition

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A letter signed by 1,554 former senior IDF officers and police commanders was published yesterday urging the government to choose peace over Jewish settlements.

"A government which prefers maintenance of settlements beyond the Green Line to the elimination of the historic conflict and establishment of normal relations in our region will cause us to question the righteousness of our course," said the full-page letter which appeared in yesterday's *Yedioth Aharonot*.

Among those who signed are a former chief of staff, Lieut. Gen. (res.) Zvi Tsur, 11 major generals and 71 generals.

It also called on the government to honor the Oslo Accords and to reinvestigate the peace

process. The letter is similar to one sent 20 years ago by a group of reserve officers to then prime minister Menachem Begin, urging him to trade land for peace with Egypt.

"The West Bank and Gaza Strip are powder kegs on the verge of exploding," said Naftali Raz yesterday, who was among the letter's initiators.

"Senior officers, even some presently in uniform, and the experts all agree that if the Oslo Accords are not carried out and the government goes on expanding settlements then another intifada will break out," he said.

"It is either a redeployment or war," Raz added. "There is a window of opportunity and [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu can be like Begin and go through with it, or he can

slam it shut on our fingers." Raz noted that while Israeli politicians tended to dismiss letters that appear in the press, he believed that reactions from abroad could stir them to action.

In 1978, Raz, then a paratrooper sergeant, was one of the signatories of the "Officers' Letter" written to Begin, which presaged the founding of the Peace Now movement.

Raz said that Begin, in a letter to writer Amos Oz, later acknowledged that he felt compelled to make a deal with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at Camp David because of the letter and the surge of public support that it generated.

"I don't have a lot of illusions," Raz said. "I hope it has the effect on Netanyahu's government that the 'Officers' Letter' had on Begin."

IDF kills 2 Hizbullah gunmen

By DAVID RUDGE

At least two Hizbullah gunmen were killed in clashes with IDF troops at the end of last week amid ongoing fighting in south Lebanon.

The IDF Spokesman said: the gunmen were killed in combined activities between IAF helicopters and infantry forces in the western sector of the security zone.

Fighting continued yesterday with heavy Hizbullah mortar fire on an IDF position in the western sector of the zone. There were no casualties, although slight damage was caused to the outpost.

Hizbullah issued statements claiming that it had hit an IDF convoy entering the Karkum position, where three soldiers were killed in a mortar attack the previous week.

Reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah mortar crews also fired at IDF and South Lebanese Army outposts in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday. There were no reports of any casualties. In all the cases, IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Meanwhile, Syria has launched a new initiative, apparently to counter Israel's proposal to withdraw from south Lebanon under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Syria and Lebanon have rejected Israel's proposal, which has caused consternation in Damascus and Beirut and put the Syrians on the defensive.

Instead, Syria is calling for all matters relating to peace in the Middle East to be handled by the UN Security Council, because of the latter's success in handling the recent crisis in Iraq.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated in London yesterday that that Israel is prepared to withdraw from south Lebanon on condition that security along the international can be guaranteed by the Lebanese government.

"To withdraw from Lebanon is a goal independent of itself," Netanyahu said, following a 90-minute meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"We're prepared to do our part, that is to leave Lebanon, if Lebanon can take up the territory we vacate and police it against Hizbullah terrorism."

Israel Radio reported last night that special EU envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Moratinos, will travel to Damascus today to discuss the Israeli proposal to withdraw from Lebanon.

Archie O'Sullivan adds: Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz spoke out yesterday against any unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon, saying it would look like a retreat and harm Israel's deterrence.

"You have to remember that any unilateral withdrawal could create a reality in the minds of the other side, the terrorists groups and Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which says that by using force against us and extracting casualties from us they can achieve political and military gains," Mofaz told high school students in Yehud.

"More than that," Mofaz added, "we believe that this sort of withdrawal can harm the deterrence of the IDF."



Leah Rabin honored in Germany

Leah Rabin (center), flanked by Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber (left) and German Parliament President Rita Suessmuth, displays the Buber-Rosenzweig medal she was awarded yesterday in Munich. The medal is presented annually to a person or institution that has served the cause of Christian-Jewish cooperation. Suessmuth praised Rabin as a courageous fighter for peace in the Middle East. *(Reuters)*

IDF denies gassing Hebron school

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF Spokesman yesterday denied reports that soldiers seeking stonethrowers at a school outside of Hebron threw stun grenades and tear gas canisters into the schoolyard after they were barred from entering.

However, Palestinians claim that four Palestinians were transferred to the Aliya Hospital in Hebron, one suffering from an eye injury.

Headmaster Talab Tirawah of the Omar bin Abdel-Aziz School outside of Hebron charged the school is constantly attacked by soldiers or settlers. "The soldiers came with the excuse that boys were throwing stones," he said, adding, "We didn't see anything like that."

Meanwhile, Palestinian Legislative Council member Abbas Zaki declared that Israel is intimidating the school in order to close it down. Zaki said there have been previous attempts by soldiers to shut the school down and added, "We can only complain to the DCO [district coordinating office], but they won't do anything practical."

Yesterday afternoon, four Palestinians were reportedly injured by rubber bullets near the Beit Anoun junction. Three were reportedly transferred to the nearby Aliya Hospital in Hebron and a fourth to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

The IDF Spokesman said scores of Palestinians rioted at the junction and stoned an Israeli bus and troops. He said troops dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets and that no injuries were reported.

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IDF: No evidence of Gaza weapons factory

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Defense sources yesterday dismissed Palestinian claims that they have uncovered a clandestine arms factory in the Gaza Strip. They said the Palestinian Authority had not yet informed them of the discovery of any such weapons depot and accused the Palestinians of manipulating the media with baseless and exaggerated reports.

Israel Radio, quoting Palestinian security sources, reported that Palestinian Police in Gaza had uncovered a large factory capable of assembling automatic weapons. It also said the factory was linked to the shipment of arms confiscated by IDF troops last weekend near the Dead Sea during an attempt by a Palestinian to smuggle them into the territories.

"We know nothing about this. You would think that they would tell us and even show us where it was found if it were true," said one Israeli defense source. "But we have no information regarding this report and nothing like this was passed on to us."

"It appears as if the Palestinians are using this to score media points," he added.

The source, who has close ties with the Palestinians, did not dismiss the possibility of Palestinians setting up arms factories. "When we were there during the intifada, they were assembling weapons, but they were primitive then. Manufacturing automatic weapons is a much more sophisticated

process. But now that we are out of there, it could very well be that they have put together something like this," he said.

He doubted, however, that it would be worth the investment since it was cheaper and easier to obtain such weapons on the black market.

Palestinian security officials remained tight-lipped. Col. Mohammed Masri refused to comment, saying he was unable to divulge any information. "I know about the factory but I can't give you any information at this time," he said.

Hamas leader in Gaza Abdul Aziz Rantisi said that to the best of his knowledge there was no such factory operating in Gaza. He said none of the movement's activists had been arrested and there were no buildings in Gaza that were reported to have been raided.

"We know nothing about this. You would think that they would tell us and even show us where it was found if it were true," said one Israeli defense source. "But we have no information regarding this report and nothing like this was passed on to us."

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Hamas leader

'He felt a part of Israel'

Nikolai Rappaport's parents visit Western Wall, talk to parents of son's fallen commander

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Ilya Rappaport, father of IDF soldier Nikolai Rappaport who was killed last month in Russia after being killed in Lebanon, said he would like to stay in Israel, "but my wife will never agree to leave her Russian roots."

"She won't leave the grave; but if my daughter decides to stay here, we will go visit her mother," explained Rappaport.

After visiting the Western Wall yesterday with his wife Claudia and his daughter Olga, Rappaport told Army Radio that he had visited one of "the most moving places."

"I cried at the Western Wall," he said. "I sent my son a letter, a note, I sent him greetings. I cried out of sadness and emotion," he said.

Later, in an emotional television interview the Rappaports met for the first time, via camera, with the family of Nikolai's commander, Assaf Rosenfeld, who was himself recently killed in Lebanon.

Claudia Rappaport said her son had died for Israel "because he felt a part of it."

She said she was not hurt or embarrassed by the squalid conditions in which her husband and son lived here. "My only sorrow is that my son is gone," she said.

Concerning their decision to have Nikolai buried in Russia, Ilya said: "Not everything is simple in life. I am Jewish, an Israeli, although I was born in Russia, and so it happened that I have a Russian wife. Nikolai was half Russian; all his family is there.



Ilya and Claudia Rappaport, the parents of slain IDF soldier Nikolai Rappaport, tour Yad Vashem yesterday.

(Itan Hamari)

That was his land. It was good for him here, but he had to be buried where his forefathers are buried. All my relatives died in the Second World War, and all his mother's relatives are buried there, so he

will rest besides them." David Rosenfeld told the Rappaports that "Nikolai and Assaf did not die for nothing. I know this from Assaf, and I'm sure it was also true of Nikolai."

"They knew what they were doing, and were killed defending the homeland they loved so much and the northern settlements. They weren't doing what they didn't

want to do, and this must give us strength, and we must derive strength from our sons, both Nikolai and Assaf."

The two families plan to meet in person today.

Top Indian general arrives for 5-day visit

By ARYEH O'SULLIVAN

The chief of India's army staff Gen. Prakash Malik is expected to begin a five-day visit today amid reports over the past year that Israel has stepped up exports of weapons and military technology to New Delhi.

Malik is to be the guest of Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shabak, but the IDF is giving out little information on his itinerary.

"It is a goodwill visit," said India's military attaché Col. Browne of Malik's trip. "We are looking forward to building a long lasting defense relationship," he added.

With over 1 million full-time servicemen, India has the world's third largest army. But the cash-strapped military has been severely limited in its ability to modernize. Still, Israel and India have developed promising defense markets, mostly involving Israeli

exports to India. Defense officials refuse to release figures on the business.

According to the *Jane's Defense Weekly*, India has bought \$14 million worth of light ammunition - 50 million bullets - from Israel Military Industries.

"Israeli firms have also supplied the Indian Navy's only aircraft carrier, the INS Virat, with upgraded electronic warfare.

Last year, India purchased two Super Dvora Mark II attack boats and has been licensed to build another four. Foreign reports said that two defense firms, Elbit and El-Op, have been vying to upgrade hundreds of Indian T-72



Gen. Prakash Malik

missile, according to *Jane's*.

India is also seeking electronic help for its fledgling submarine-launched Sagarika missile.

Indian military officials told *Jane's* recently that India had been unable to perfect its range of missiles because of its inability to source critical components and subsystems from abroad due to the

tanks. India has postponed the plan for lack of funds.

But more importantly, India is also negotiating for Israeli missile technology to perfect the launching and guidance systems of the Prithvi, an indigenously developed surface-to-surface

Missile Technology Control Regime.

India is locked in an arms race with Pakistan, which has benefited from US military equipment.

In December 1996, India and Israel signed cooperation agreements in several fields, including technological research and development.

President Ezer Weizman visited India in January 1997. One of his aims was to push for an increase in defense cooperation. During his trip, the countries decided to exchange military attaches.

Following his visit, senior Indian officials, including the Air Force chief, quietly visited Israel and inspected advanced defense systems. Last year, India's top defense ministry scientists visited secretly and toured satellite and missile programs.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had to postpone a planned visit to India last month because of the Gulf crisis.

Priebke vows to go to Euro Court

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG and news agencies

ROME - Ex-Nazi captain Erich Priebke, sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in Italy's worst World War II atrocity, vowed yesterday to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

"The law is not the same for everyone - perhaps it is useless to contest the sentence," Priebke told RAI state television a day after a military appeals court gave him life for taking part in the 1944 massacre of 335 men and boys.

Asked if he would turn to the European Court in Strasbourg, he replied: "Of course... we will do that."

Berlin-born Priebke had appealed against a 15-year sentence, reduced to five years due to mitigating circumstances, handed down last July for his role in the killings at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

A lawyer for relatives of the massacre victims said after Saturday's verdict that Priebke's life sentence had been suspended pending an appeal to Italy's highest court and he would remain under house arrest.

Representatives of the Rome Jewish community have expressed satisfaction at the life sentence. Seventy-six of the massacre victims were Jews.

"We never wanted revenge, only justice," said Sandro Di Castro, president of the Rome Jewish community. "The sentence represents a moral and historical condemnation, which is what counts."

Vice president Riccardo Pacifici said the sentence has finally established the principle that Italy abides by the UN General Assembly decision that "crimes against humanity have no statute of limitations."

Rome Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff said, "The firm condemnation of the ideology represented by Priebke is an act of justice that does Italy honor."

Yossi Olmert at odds with Likud over mayoral bid

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Yossi Olmert said yesterday the Likud leadership is threatening to expel him from the party due to his decision to run for mayor of Ra'anana against the Likud's candidate, incumbent Ze'ev Bielsky.

"I have received messages from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bureau threatening to expel me from the Likud if I challenge Bielsky," Olmert said. "They have also threatened to harm me and to harm my brother [Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert]. The party's leadership circles and apparatus are boycotting me and keeping me out of various forums. I'm struggling for my existence in the party."

Olmert is negotiating with Labor over heading a joint list, which will run independently.

He accused Netanyahu and his former office director-general Avigdor Lieberman of acting against him in the 1996 primaries as well "because I'm not a yes-man. In today's Likud, if you're not 100 percent for Bibi, they regard you as 100 percent against Bibi. But I'm not made of the stuff of yes-men, nor am I afraid of them. However, if they dare any attempt to remove me from the ranks, I will turn the elections into a free case."

He noted that he had not been afraid to come out against Netanyahu in the past, after the prime minister broke his explicit promise to appoint him UN ambassador. Olmert pointed out he has no intention of running in primaries for the Likud nomination, stating, "I have no confidence in the Likud central committee. I will field an independent list no matter what the Likud decides to do."

Olmert met the head of Labor's municipal section, MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, two weeks ago to discuss the possibility of Labor's joining Olmert's independent list instead of fielding its own candidate against Bielsky.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW By MICHAEL SELA

US pressure

The Palestinians, the Arabs and the international community expect Washington to come up with an effective plan to put an end to settlement expansion and eventually force Israel to withdraw from all of the West Bank, says an *Al-Quds* editorial.

Such an initiative "to save the just peace process is the one and only alternative, one which is urgent at this stage."

Also in *Al-Quds*, Issam Sirwan from Nablus comments: "We hoped that the American administration works seriously to implement international resolutions."

He finds it strange that the Americans agreed to Israel's refusal to carry out its obligations under the pretext that the negotiations continue.

"It is strange, because they know that Israel has turned these negotiations into a dialogue of the deaf to continue with her hegemony and occupation of Arab lands and establish more settlements, often with American money."

Lebanon withdrawal?

Israel's announcement that it is considering withdrawing from south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425 is but example of Israel's deceptive policy towards the Arabs, claims the Palestinian press.

A cartoon in *Al-Quds* depicted Netanyahu as a bullfighter, waving a red cloth reading "425" in front of his hosts last week in Spain.

Ilyas Zananiri in *Al-Ayyam* links the anticipated American initiative with the Israeli proposal to withdraw from Lebanon. The Palestinians have a bitter experience with Netanyahu's announcements. While speaking about withdrawal, Israel is probably preparing a fatal attack on Hizbullah, says Zananiri.

Netanyahu, he adds, may consider American pressures to move on the peace process a threat. Thus, Israel's initiative on Lebanon is a maneuver by Netanyahu to get ahead of Washington's agenda and distract

the attention away from the Israeli-Palestinian track.

The publisher of *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, Nabil Amru, considers Netanyahu's recent move "the beginning of a new vicious circle."

Amru calls on Netanyahu to unconditionally implement Resolution 425 as well as the agreements with the Palestinians and stop playing for time to avoid his obligations, saying that if it's one thing all the Arabs agree on, it's that Israel must meet its obligations before demanding anything more.

Weizman win welcomed

The Palestinians closely watched the presidential election here, with their support going to Weizman.

He is one of Israel's more important presidents, mainly because of his contribution to Middle East peace, writes Hani Habib in *Al-Ayyam*, who adds that "the people like him" because, among other things, he attends funerals of terror victims and visits wounded soldiers.

Shaul Amor, on the other hand, "is the mayor of Mufajjal, which the Israelis call Migdal Ha'emek." Besides his repeated political failures, "he does not recognize the rights of the Palestinians."

On the day the Knesset voted for president, Habib wrote: "Today the Israelis have to choose, whether to reflect the impolite Ashkenazi general or the social reformer who hates anything which is not Jewish."

Intellectual encounters

Al-Quds opened its pages to the discussion of the Arab intellectuals' boycott of Israel. A group of Egyptian intellectuals had marked a year since the Copenhagen Israeli-Arab conference, which had convened to try to circumvent this boycott.

During the year they appealed to the court against the harassment they have suffered by their professional unions. Thirty of them launched the legal procedure needed to establish an Egyptian "Peace

NEWS

in brief

Justice Ministry opposes general amnesty

The Justice Ministry is opposed to a general amnesty for the jubilee year, according to an announcement put out after Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi met with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, State Attorney Edna Arbel and Aviva Gitai, legal adviser to the president.

"The view of all those present was that legislation in favor of amnesty should not be encouraged and the right way is for the president to invoke his powers of pardon in a way that will give expression to the 50th anniversary," the participants said.

Batsheva Tsur

Former 'New York Post' editor dies

Eric Breindel, the long-time editorial page editor of *The New York Post* and an influential advocate for conservative Jewish circles, died Saturday after a sudden illness. He was 42.

Until he was appointed senior vice president of the paper's parent company, News Corp., last year, Breindel spent 11 years at the helm of the New York daily newspaper's opinion page. Liberals were the usual targets of his razor-sharp intellect.

While at the *Post*, he received the 1991 national first prize for editorial writing from the Society of Professional Journalists.

At his death, Breindel was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, was writing a book on Soviet espionage and was the moderator of *Fox News Watch* on News Corp.'s Fox News Channel.

Breindel contributed to a variety of publications, including *Commentary*, *The New Republic*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Jerusalem Post*.

Marilyn Henry

MKS to discuss Nativ today

The subcommittee on security affairs of the Knesset State Control Committee will hold a marathon session today to discuss Nativ, the formerly clandestine arm of the government that operated behind the Iron Curtain, following serious allegations of mismanagement by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat. GSS head Ami Ayalon, the deputy head of the Mossad, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Ben-Tsur, and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg will report to the subcommittee, chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) said yesterday.

Batsheva Tsur

ILA workers may step up sanctions

The Israel Lands Administration's workers' is to meet today with the Government Employees Union to consider stepping up the sanctions that have been in force since February 10. The sanctions were launched in protest of plans to consolidate offices, which could entail layoffs.

The workers have been refusing to handle any Housing Ministry files or cases involving zoning changes for agricultural land, in addition to a boycott of other routine duties, such as answering phones or forwarding mail. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Sadbon new chief of police investigations

Cmdr. Yossi Sadbon took over yesterday as head of police investigations. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said at a ceremony that the unit is the "most sensitive body in the state of Israel." Most of its head officers have been rotated recently.

Sadbon said he would not change the policy of his predecessor Cmdr. Sando Mazar, recently appointed as deputy inspector-general, on conducting investigations of public officials. "I cannot imagine my hands being tied on this matter," Sadbon said. *Itm*

Police believe Haifa murder suspect has fled the country

By DAVID RUDGE

Haifa police are seeking the assistance of their colleagues in Germany and Interpol to help track down and capture the person they described as the "prime suspect" in the murder of Technion student Edward Rotenberg.

Rotenberg, 23, from Ma'alot, who was studying mechanical engineering at the Technion, was found stabbed to death early Saturday morning in the stairwell of a building in Haifa's Hadar district.

He had been at a party in a recording studio in the Nordau Street pedestrian mall with several other people, including his girlfriend, a resident of Haifa.

She left the party shortly after Rotenberg, and found him lying in a pool of blood on the stairs. MDA

personnel pronounced him dead at the scene.

Police believe that the young woman's former boyfriend killed Rotenberg, probably out of jealousy, and then fled the country.

The suspect, Genady Gelkin, 26, is a resident of Haifa, who has been travelling to and from Europe, especially Germany, in the past few years.

It is believed that Gelkin arrived in Israel a few days ago and was either at the party at the recording studio or in the vicinity at the time of the murder. He flew back to Germany from Ben-Gurion Airport on Saturday, a few hours after Rotenberg was killed.

Supt. Moshe Nissan, spokesman for the Haifa police district, said the police would be seeking Gelkin's extradition once he is caught.

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In memory of Sergeant Nikolai Rapoport
of the IDF Givati Brigade who fell in Lebanon

Today, Monday 11 Adar, 5758 (March 9, 1998)
9.30 a.m. at Ben Shimon Forest

Under the patronage of
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu
WZO and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg
Minister of Immigrant Absorption Yuli Edelstein
Family
Givati officers and soldiers

Yahalom: Probe Gazit remarks

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom called on Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday to order a criminal investigation into former IDF intelligence chief Shlomo Gazit, who made headlines this weekend when he compared IDF soldiers in knitted kippot with Nazi troops wearing a swastika.

Yahalom said that Gazit should be charged with incitement and libel, and that not only were his comments insulting and degrading, but coming from a person of Gazit's standing, they impinged on social norms. Therefore a strong reaction is called for, Yahalom said. Gazit, who had made the remarks at Tel Aviv University, sent a letter of apology yesterday to Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who is a Holocaust survivor, saying he would like to repent for the "terrible and stupid comparison which I made."

In his letter Gazit also said that he



Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom

he had expressed concern about what the IDF allowed soldiers to wear as an external symbol with political overtones.

Although he had not said so at the time, Gazit said he would also be concerned if the IDF permitted left-wing soldiers to wear a Peace Now pin.

Gazit also said he had suggested to the IDF chief chaplain to institute standard military kippot, in khaki and blue, and thus eliminate the "private" kippot.

knew the work of those who wore knitted kippot in the IDF and he saluted their sacrifice and military success. He added, however, that what



Agricultural relations

Sari Nusselbeh, the president of Al-Quds University, (far right) tours the Hebrew University Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot yesterday with horticulture expert Dr. David Weiss (left).

Court: No state funding for haredi youth movements

BATSEVA TSUR and Nim

Four haredi youth movements are to have their Education Ministry funding cut off, by order of the High Court of Justice, which yesterday accepted a petition on the matter filed by Zionist youth movements.

The court ruled yesterday that two movements - Tzeirei Agudat Yisrael (for boys) and the Aguda girls movement - should no longer receive any support since they did not fulfill the criteria set by the ministry for supporting Zionist youth movements.

Agudat Yisrael must return the money it received in advance last year, the court ruled.

With regard to two other movements, Tzvaot Hashem and Pirhei Hadeleg, the court ruled that their ministry funding should be suspended until their policies were thoroughly exam-

ined. The Noar Ha'oved Vehalom movement and the Council of Youth Movements had presented separate petitions to the court asking that the funding for the haredi movements be cut off, because these movements do not support the Zionist and democratic values of the state, including IDF or national service.

After hearing that Agudat Yisrael had formally announced it would change its platform but in fact had done nothing, Justice Michael Cheshin said that the movement had not responded properly to the ministry's requests for clarification.

"Can the leopard change its spots?" Cheshin remarked.

Heshin also criticized the ministry for providing funds "so easily" to Tzvaot Hashem and Pirhei Hadeleg without even checking what their platforms are.

Phony rape story reveals a real problem

It's a tale that, on the face of it, has all the trappings of a good - a really good - newspaper story. Forget a newspaper story, it would make a great novel. Foreign workers rape a haredi woman, the mother of nine children, as she leaves a mikve. She and her husband are deeply in love, but because of the Laws of Moses, the rabbi decree that he must divorce her. The husband is a *kohen*, descendant of the priestly caste, and the wife of a *kohen* is forbidden to him if she has been violated.

The story was told in *Yedioth Aharonot* two weeks ago, and then picked up by all the major media. The radio talk shows had a field day, the newspapers did follow ups, the story even hit the international wires. The only problem is that it appears now, two weeks after publication, that the whole thing never happened. A number of people went searching for the woman, the children, the foreign rapists, the rabbi. Nobody found anything. *Yedioth* has said it is investigating the matter.

Perhaps the reporter felt victim to wild rumors being spread about foreign workers; perhaps the country felt victim to shoddy journalism, and a penchant to believe the worst about the haredim.

According to noted Jewish philosopher Eliezer Schweid, the whole episode puts into context the

fundamental gap separating the religious and non-religious communities. That so many people were willing to believe the story, even though it was poorly sourced from the beginning, is "not necessarily the result of negative attitudes toward the haredim," Schweid argued. "You can't deny that the stands taken by the haredi leadership on these issues - the status of women - provide a background that enables people to believe this type of thing."

Schweid said that the lack of knowledge in the wider public of the halachic norms in these areas, coupled by an underlying antagonism toward the rabbinic establishment for its stand on issues over which it has sole control - marriage and divorce - makes people more willing to buy these stories.

A few days after the story broke, a demonstration was organized in front of the Tel Aviv rabbinate, with signs reading "Don't rape her again," "Halacha against women," "Medieval darkness," and "Is being raped a crime." One of the demonstrators, Yael Doron of the Rape Crisis Center, said yesterday that even though the incident in question may have been made up, "Don't make the rabbinate into pure righteous people, because they are not. Maybe this specific

incident did not happen, but that doesn't mean they are clean. They have done enough bad things."

According to Schweid, friction over matters of personal status and sexual ethics is one of the most difficult points of contention between the religious and non-religious communities.

IN CONTEXT

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The law has given the rabbinic authority over these issues, and the rabbinate doesn't try to solve the problems that arise in a manner that is compatible with the ethical standards of the majority of the non-religious public. There is a deep conflict on this, and it touches especially on the status of women. The conventional wisdom is that the halachic stands taken by the rabbinate discriminate against women. It is against the backdrop of this sensitivity that you can understand why people are willing to easily believe these stories."

Interestingly enough, Rabbi Shmuel Jakobovits, head of Ura Kevod, an organization of haredi intellectuals set up to clarify haredi stands on contemporary issues, said that although the *Yedioth* story may or may not be true, it does reflect a genuine aspect of the clash between the religious and non-religious cultures and ideologies.

"It may be that this particular

instance was fabricated, but there is something here that is a matter of conflict," Jakobovits said. "According to the Torah, a *kohen* is not allowed to continue to live with his wife if she was raped. What we really have here is a deep conflict between two ideologies."

"The papers and media play it up, because they are eager to show that in the perspective of modern, universalist, human values, there are elements in Torah ideology that are - to their minds - unacceptable. But I say it is specifically issues such as these that are litmus tests of our faith, and of our belief in Torah from heaven."

He said that accepting painful decrees such as these is a "sign of acceptance of the heavenly law." Jakobovits said that although the particular incident may not have happened, "it could happen."

He said there are other factors that could come into play that would lead to a more lenient opinion by the rabbinical courts, "and there may very well be only a few instances where this [halachic] principle will be applied. But the principle is there."

"The real issue at hand in Israeli society is the principle, not the actual incident. That is the central issue facing us today - that one side views Torah as supreme and unassailable, while the other side believes that universal values are superior."

'Clalit manipulating transplant recipients'

By JUDY SEGEL

Transplant patients charged yesterday that Kupat Holim Clalit was forcing them to undergo vital tests in the health fund's own community clinic labs instead of referring them to transplant units in the hospitals where they underwent surgery.

The patients argued that doctors who took care of them in the hospitals were expert in the field and sensitive to every change in their blood electrolyte level and other variables.

Community clinic staff, they said, were not specialists in this, and a senior administrator of a large transplant hospital charged he knew of some cases in which Clalit labs listed the wrong blood type for patients.

The administrator said that Clalit's Dr. Michael Weiner issued instructions on January 1 requiring all members who had undergone organ transplants to be monitored only at the health-fund-owned Rabin Medical Center-Belinson Hospital or Clalit community clinics. He said

he suspected that the new orders were a sign that by increasing red tape, Clalit intends to discourage medically expensive transplant patients from remaining in the health fund.

"There are only hundreds of such patients, and they have enough medical troubles without being shunted from one place to another," he concluded.

The Clalit spokeswoman denied the allegations, saying that transplant patients who underwent surgery in Jerusalem can be monitored at a hospital there. All the rest, she said, undergo follow-ups at Belinson, which has a National Transplant Center; routine lab tests that can be completed "within a reasonable time" will be conducted in community clinic labs and answers will be sent to Clalit hospitals.

The spokeswoman insisted that if there is danger of organ rejection and the health fund doctor sees the need for urgent tests, the health fund will refer the member to the hospital and cover the costs.

Histadrut comptroller finds severe wrongdoing

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Severe mismanagement and financial disorders were exposed by the Histadrut comptroller's report for 1996, which was presented to the labor federation's parliament yesterday.

The target of the harshest criticism was the Histadrut's Haifa branch, which violated regulations by handing over the Hanoar Haoved Vehalom building to the Shas party, without charging rent.

In addition, the Haifa labor council sold the Kiryat Haim Stadium to businessman Rubi Shapira, who was the first one offered the deal, without required approval from Histadrut institutions.

The report exposes severe flaws in the management of the Histadrut's assets company, formed at the beginning of 1995, after a new leadership was elected. The company handles assets worth hundreds of millions of shekels.

The comptroller found that the assets company's internal comptroller earned 200% more than what had been approved by the board of directors. In addition, the company's legal adviser handled some outside transactions, despite an inherent conflict of interests.

The committee for appointing lawyers overstepped its authority - which was to recommend lawyers and how much they should be paid - by dividing up assets among the lawyers and approving a list of outside attorneys, without obtaining approval from the board of directors.

Commenting on the sale of Landau House in Nesher, the comptroller concludes the Histadrut's asset manager in Haifa exceeded his authority and acted improperly by intervening in the deal.

In another case, the Histadrut is found to have refrained from claiming some half a million shekels that previous leaders gave Shas in 1994 for fictitious ads in the party's *Yom LeYom* newspaper.

The affair was revealed at the trial of former Histadrut treasury manager Meir Seigman, which ended three months ago, *Yedioth Aharonot* reported last weekend.

In exchange for the money, Shas was supposed to have supported then Histadrut secretary-general Haim Haberfeld in the elections. But Shas took the money and joined Haim Ramon's rival faction, Ram.

Tomarkin gets reward denied him by Yad Vashem

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

"Freedom for Israel," a new organization calling for separation between religion and government, held its founding meeting last night in Tel Aviv.

In a symbolic act, the group awarded a prize to artist Yigal Tomarkin, who was supposed to receive a prize from Yad Vashem last year, but was denied the prize because of charges that he made insulting remarks about haredim. The non-profit organization, which was formed by a small group of friends and has enrolled 200 members over the past six months, declares that while it does not want to eliminate the Jewish character of the state, it does want to drastically reduce the amount of political power wielded by religious leaders.

"While keeping in mind that we are in a Jewish country, we believe that religious institutions should not be run by the state or financed by it. We aren't anti-religious; people should be able to have religious weddings if they want to, but they shouldn't be forced into doing so. We believe in freedom of choice, including the choice to be as Jewish as one wishes," said Assaf Katan, the group's administrative director.

Katan claims that some of the group's members are Orthodox, but believe that religion has suffered from becoming too intertwined with politics.

"Another demonstration, another petition to the High Court isn't going to change things. We need to change the entire structure of the way this country approaches religion, a way that currently causes misunderstanding and increases hatred and resentment between Jews," said Dr. Yuval Karniel, spokesman for the group.

He said that the organization did not have a specific existing model country in mind for the dynamic between government and religion, but was looking around the world for creative alternatives from which to build its own model. "We don't want to just become America," he said.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo was scheduled to speak at last night's meeting.

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Australian Jewish leaders urge Knesset probe of bridge disaster

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Leaders from two key Australian Jewish groups have asked the Knesset to launch its own probe of how organizers handled the bridge collapse at the Maccabiah Games last summer, in which four people died.

Diane Shtienman, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and Ron Weiser,

president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, wrote Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, that "a rift between Australian Jewry and Israel has occurred in the aftermath of the collapse of the bridge over the Yarkon River."

"One outstanding issue, which does not appear to be in the process of resolution, is the call for the establishment of an inquiry into the conduct of the organizers of the

15th Maccabiah which is both truly independent and seen to be truly independent. We recognize that the majority of issues concerning the tragedy have either been resolved or are in the process of being resolved," the letter went on.

"But despite the Donat Report, subsequent police investigations and indictments... there has yet to be proper scrutiny of the actual organization and conduct of the

15th Maccabiah.

"We do not doubt that the individuals on the commission inquiring into these matters, appointed by the Maccabi World Union, are eminent people but the fact that they hold positions within MWU is an impediment to justice being perceived to have been done," it added. "Our organizations believe that the only course of action that can lead to a healing in the aftermath of this

tragedy is the establishment of a Knesset inquiry into the entire affair," the letter concluded.

Several families of disaster victims have also been pressing for an independent investigation. Maccabi World Union leaders have resisted, saying their own internal inquiry is enough.

Tichon, who was in Eilat yesterday, had not yet seen the letters, a spokesman said.

NEWS

in brief

Israeli pleads guilty to fraud in US court

Ron Amiran may face up to five years in prison after pleading guilty in a federal court in Los Angeles to defrauding a local bank of \$1.2 million. Amiran, 60, had been a fugitive for seven years. He was taken into custody when a plane he was piloting wandered into protected airspace over Las Vegas.

Amiran controlled several Los Angeles-based mortgage and escrow businesses, according to Assistant US Attorney Harriet M. Rolnick. Under contract to provide loan services for a pension fund managed by Security Pacific National Bank in the mid-1980s, Amiran negotiated a \$6.7 million loan from the bank to a New Mexico firm, she alleged. However, he fraudulently diverted \$1.2 million to his own account, Rolnick charged. Sentencing has been set for June 9.

Tom Tugend

Okev apologizes for shooting British tourists

Daniel Okev, the retired army major who shot and killed a British tourist and wounded his girlfriend, yesterday apologized through his lawyer to the victims' families. Okev "is very sorry and he wants the families in England to know that he is sorry," attorney David Yiftach said. "Mr. Okev did not have any intention to kill." The trial of Okev, who is charged with killing Jeffrey Hunter, 22, and wounding Hunter's girlfriend Charlotte Gibb last August, began yesterday in Beersheba District Court.

AP

Suspect remanded in sexual molestation case

Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday remanded a suspect in the sexual molestation of a 13-year-old boy for another three days.

The suspect, Abu Soliman, 30, from Kafr Bara, was arrested at the start of last week.

The man allegedly kidnapped the boy after meeting him in an amusement arcade in Tel Aviv. Police claim he dragged the boy into his car and drove to a parking lot where the molestation took place.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Shots fired at Haifa TV station

Several shots were fired from a passing car at the offices of the Matav cable television station on the southern outskirts of Haifa yesterday. There were no casualties, although a window was damaged.

David Rudge

'Beware dangerous Purim toys' - MDA

By JUDY SEGEL and ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Purim is still a few days away, but Magen David Adom already has its hands full treating and evacuating children wounded by explosives.

MDA is urging parents and teachers to warn children against playing with explosives and caps and to ensure that Purim costumes and accessories are not flammable; every year, children are burned when sparks from cap pistols ignite costumes.

The Union of Local Authorities has issued a similar warning, noting that pupils in a Dimona school last week put fireworks in the shirt of one of their classmates, which almost set his hair on fire. The Education Ministry issued a special circular urging teachers to explain the dangers to children.

Do not use cotton wool, paper, rayon, plastic and other inflammable materials in Purim costumes. The first-aid and ambulance organization said yesterday. In addition, those who use devices that make a lot of noise should never aim them at ears or eyes, as this can cause irreversible damage.

Tell children in advance what to do if a costume catches fire. The victim should lie on the ground and be rolled in sand or earth, or the flames should be doused with large amounts of water. The victim's head should never be covered and his burnt clothing should not be removed. Don't put greasy creams on burned skin, but cool it with water.

Among the items the ULA warned parents to watch out for are body paint which blocks out pores and can be poisonous;

clothes, fake hair, beards or costumes made of flammable materials, and costumes which make it hard for the youngsters to see or walk.

Don't spray canned "snow" into the eyes or face or on any exposed skin. If this chemical enters the eyes, wash them with water. If a spark gets into an eye, wash it with water and take the victim to a medical facility or call an MDA ambulance.

The ULA also warned parents to make sure that at parties there are no paper decorations too close to hot light bulbs. It's recommended that a first-aid kit be on hand at any Purim party.

Police and inspectors of the Industry and Trade Ministry have begun visiting stores and confiscating illegal and dangerous toys, explosives and sprays.

Last week, Tel Aviv area police confiscated large quantities of explosives of various kinds, along with "snow" spray cans.

Some proprietors were fined, while others will be charged.

The Chief Rabbinate also warned that some of the wines and other liquor being sold in groceries and supermarkets may not be kosher.

Rabbi Haim Zilber, head of the rabbinate's import department, specifically mentioned Irish cream and pina coloda liqueurs, which may contain unsupervised milk, as well as ouzo and cherry brandy, which may contain non-kosher wine.

The rabbinate has issued a list of 284 imported items that have been approved as kosher, and anything not appearing on the list should be presumed not kosher, Zilber said.

lim contributed to this report.

Survey: Women paid 30% less than men

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Women are paid some 30% less than men for equivalent jobs, but tend to avoid complaining for fear of being fired, according to a survey published yesterday for International Women's Day by Naamat and the Association for Citizens Rights.

In releasing the survey, both groups also launched an "equal pay for equal work" campaign. "The law for equal pay is not being enforced and remains a dead letter in the law books," Naamat Chairperson Ofra Friedman said. "I have yet to hear of a trade union or workers' committee which imposes sanctions or declares a labor dispute because its women workers are earning less than the men."

Friedman said that the discrimination runs across the board in every level, from low to high income brackets. She cited the case of Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen, who discovered months after her appointment that she was earning less than male peers in other ministries.

Many employers evade the equal pay law by failing to pay women the salary additions and benefits that are often piled onto a basic wage, Friedman noted. "Employers don't lift a finger to correct the injustice, because they gain large sums of money from workers' ignorance regarding their rights, and the unions don't fight for it," she explained.

Naamat and the Citizens Rights Association plan to inform workers of their rights and provide legal counseling and representation for women who decide to sue their employers.

The Union of Local Authorities yesterday ordered local government to implement a cabinet deci-



Communications Minister Limor Livnat addresses a special Tel Aviv City Council meeting yesterday, marking International Women's Day.

sion calling for affirmative action in employment. "It is unthinkable that in the year 2000 women should not be represented according to their proportion in the population," ULA Chairman Adi Eldar said yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry's report to the United Nations regarding the status of women in Israel shows that despite progressive legislation, the economic, political and judiciary elites are still dominated almost exclusively by men.

The report finds that Israeli women are paid less than men, are grossly under-represented in the Knesset and government, and that the murderer of a man gets a heavier prison sentence than someone convicted of murdering a woman.

Mayors: City social services may have to be shut down

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The mayors of the three largest cities - Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa - warned yesterday that their social services may have to be shut down unless the government comes through with assistance.

"The main problem is the gap between the needs, and the resources that are available to meet the needs of the population," said Amram Mitzna, mayor of Haifa. "The government is not increasing the resources and we, the municipalities, are on the front lines dealing with the people - and we have to give answers. We can't say there is no money, there is no budget, and there are no social workers." Mitzna, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert met at Jerusalem's City Hall yesterday to discuss the ever-growing gap between needs and resources in the areas of health, assistance to the aged, the poor, children and drug addicts.

They alleged that 21.1 percent of the country's population are not getting their fair share of the pie, and are in danger of having to cut back - or curtail - some of the services they administer.

"This is the paradox here," said Olmert. "The municipalities are the long arm of the government in



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (right) speaks to his Tel Aviv counterpart Ronni Milo at a meeting yesterday in the city council room in Jerusalem.

implementing the social policies of welfare, and while they are required by law to provide the services as defined by the government, the government does not provide us with the means to do it in the appropriate way."

Olmert said Jerusalem is unique in that it has the largest population needing services, while its income per capita is the smallest of the three cities.

Mitzna said that to avoid cutting back on social services in Haifa, in trying to find solutions in Haifa so as to avoid cutting back on services, "all the employees of the

municipality voluntarily gave up 4% of their salaries in the last two years."

Naveh to visit Pollard

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, who is in charge of coordinating efforts to secure Jonathan Pollard's release, is planning to visit the convicted spy in his Bunker, North Carolina jail in the next few weeks.

Naveh informed Pollard's wife, Esther Zeitz-Pollard, that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has given the go-ahead for such a visit and that further visits could be expected.

Zeitz-Pollard met yesterday with Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and Communications Minister Limor Livnat of the ministerial steering committee on the Pollard case, as well as Naveh and other government officials. She said later that the meeting was "good."

Livnat had pointed out that all aspects of Pollard's case are being affected by the issue of his official recognition as an Israeli agent - an issue which Pollard's lawyers last

week took to the High Court of Justice. Zeitz-Pollard added that she had presented the steering committee with a list of requests from her husband.

Pollard said, through his wife, that "ministerial visits are the most effective way of getting across the message of the seriousness of the government's intentions." He stressed that time is of the essence since his health is deteriorating.

Over the weekend, Yitzhak Oren of the Israeli Embassy visited Pollard. "My orders are to deal with your release in the most intensive way," he reportedly told Pollard. "I am doing for you what I would do for an agent."

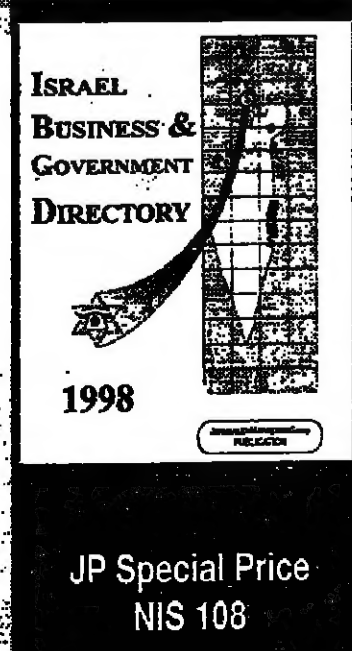
According to Zeitz-Pollard, Naveh also confirmed that a meeting last week between B'nai B'rith President Tommy Baer and Pollard had been at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office. Baer said later that, if the US did not release Pollard soon, it would be "a second Dreyfus case," she said.

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World powers to warn Belgrade on Kosovo

By PAUL TAYLOR

LONDON (Reuters) - The major powers are set to send a stern warning to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic against pursuing a bloody crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

But while the Contact Group powers, meeting in London today, were expected to underline the need for outside mediation, they were unlikely to agree on either economic sanctions or military intervention, officials said.

Foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, and a Russian deputy foreign minister, will hold an emergency session on former Yugoslavia for the first time since the 1995 Dayton peace accords on Bosnia.

The Contact Group was formed during Bosnia's war in 1994 to coordinate Big Power peace diplomacy dealing with the region of former Yugoslavia.

The talks follow a week-long offensive by Serbian security forces against the rebel Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in which at dozens of people have died in the southern Serbian province.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said: "As chairman, I will want to send a clear message to President Milosevic that the repression should stop."

"It is clear from weekend reports that the violence in Kosovo has continued," he said in a statement. "We do not accept that this is merely an internal matter."

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright toured Western Europe at the weekend seeking support for a package of economic and diplomatic measures to pressure Milosevic to stop the

bloodshed and negotiate with moderate leaders of the ethnic Albanian majority on restoring autonomy to Kosovo.

The United States last week rescinded minor economic concessions made last month to Belgrade and urged allies to join in returning

sanctions on rump Yugoslavia.

But the focus at today's meeting was likely to be diplomatic action in light of the absence of Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, Moscow's opposition to any talk of sanctions and reported misgivings in France and Italy about punitive economic measures.

The major powers will press Milosevic to accept a mediation mission by former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - the largest pan-European security grouping.

Gonzalez brought a solution to a 1996 stand-off between Milosevic and Serbian opposition parties over disputed municipal elections. But the Yugoslav president has not yet agreed to accept an OSCE mission in Kosovo.

Milosevic has so far rejected any internationalization of what he insists is an internal "terrorism" problem.

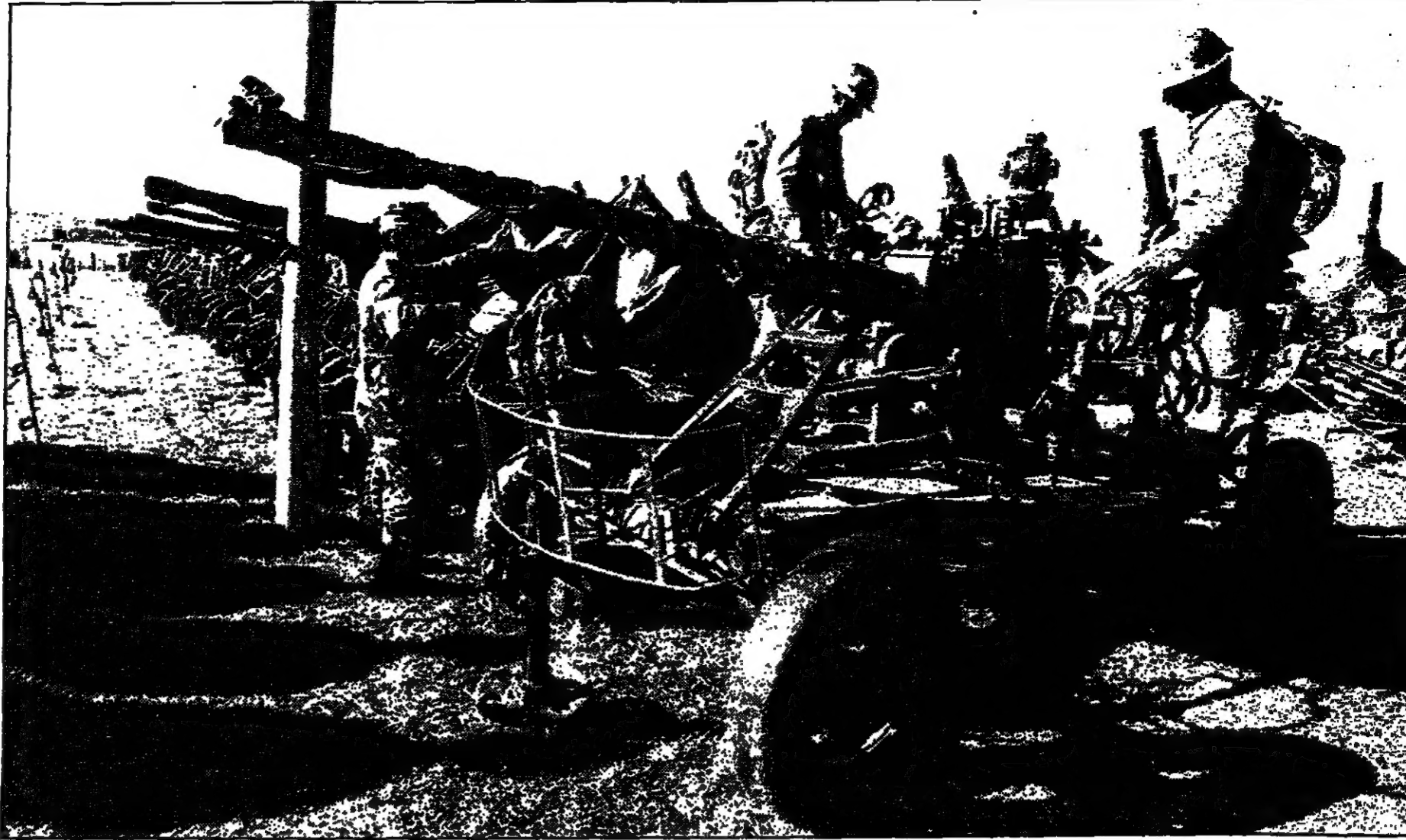
Western governments are deeply concerned at the danger of the conflict drawing in neighboring Albania and Macedonia, which has a restive ethnic Albanian minority.

The West is expected to call for OSCE monitoring of both countries' borders, and for Yugoslavia to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross into Kosovo.

Western ministers were also likely to back a German proposal to raise the issue in the United Nations Security Council, although Russia has made clear it would block any resolution on Kosovo.

Asked whether Milosevic, who stripped Kosovo of its autonomy in 1989, had given Cook any indication that he might be prepared to open talks with moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, a British official said: "There was no hint, no chink of light. Rather to the contrary."

Serbian authorities have told foreign governments the crackdown



Albanian soldiers train at a base in the northern town of Kukes, 210 kilometers from Tirana, at the border of the Yugoslav volatile province of Kosovo. (AP)

is almost over for now.

Yesterday they took a group of diplomats from Belgrade to the mountain village of Prekaz, outside Pristina, scene of some of the heaviest fighting on Thursday and Friday.

Officials of the Democratic League of Kosovo, the main ethnic Albanian party, said yesterday the

Prekaz area had been calmer overnight with only sporadic shooting.

However, scores of Albanian villagers spent their third night sleeping rough in the wooded hills, afraid to return to their homes in the Drenica region of central Kosovo.

European Union foreign minis-

ters are due to discuss Kosovo at a two-day meeting in Edinburgh next weekend and the Russian, French and German foreign ministers plan to visit Belgrade in the next 10 days.

This action, along with the Contact Group meeting, means that Milosevic will face concerted pressure to seek a negotiated,

political solution to the crisis.

After sending somewhat confused signals about its willingness to use force in the last resort in Kosovo, the United States has dropped talk of military action, which diplomats said was a non-starter.

So the question is whether Milosevic, who rose to power in

the late 1980s by championing the Serb minority in Kosovo, will be persuaded by diplomatic action to do what he has refused to do for the last decade - allow the 90 percent Albanian majority a measure of self-rule.

"One is entitled to be pessimistic," a Contact Group official said. "The outlook is pretty grim."



United we stand

Thousands of women activists form a human chain in Dhaka to mark International Women's Day yesterday. (AP)

Iraq, Kuwait to discuss Gulf War MIAs

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq and Kuwait will hold talks this month on tracing people who went missing during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of the Gulf state, a Red Cross source said yesterday.

The talks, which will be attended by the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), are scheduled to begin on March 18," the source said in Baghdad.

An Iraqi weekly newspaper said yesterday the talks would be attended by representatives from Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain and France.

"These meetings will discuss the issue of the missing from the two sides during the 30-nation aggression against our country in 1991," the weekly *Arab Photographer* said.

The meetings are the latest in a series by a working group of a Geneva-based commission trying to account for people who went missing. Kuwait wants Iraq to account for more than 600 Kuwaitis and others who disappeared during the occupation.

Kuwait and the United States say a full accounting is one of several conditions Iraq must meet before economic sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Iraq has repeatedly denied holding any Kuwaitis in its prisons, saying it would do it no good to keep them in jail since their detention would prolong sanctions.

Last month Iraq freed three Kuwaitis and a Saudi it held on charges of illegal entry.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf yesterday welcomed King Hussein's support for opening a dialogue between Iraq and the United States to bring a lasting solution to the Iraqi crisis.

"We appreciate the ideas by His Majesty King Hussein to open a dialogue between Iraq and the United States...this is in harmony with the Iraqi position," Sahaf said in remarks carried by the state news agency Petra after meeting Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad al-Anani.

Sahaf arrived late on Saturday from Baghdad

on his way to New York for talks with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on proposals to expand Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Hussein recently suggested that Washington and Baghdad open a direct dialogue to resolve longstanding disputes over compliance with UN Security Council resolutions in the aftermath of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Iraq recently reached an accord with the UN which ended a crisis over arms inspections and averted US threats to use force against Iraq.

"The dialogue is important because it is based on a mutual interest and preserves peace and security and it's the right way to deal with the crisis and not by brandishing the threat of use of force," Sahaf was quoted as saying.

Jordan has criticized US military threats against Iraq, but urged the Iraqis to comply with Security Council resolutions and allow UN teams access to sites suspected of containing weapons of mass destruction or related materials.

Party faithful follow Schroeder's lead

By ANDREW GRAY

BOCHUM, Germany (Reuters) - Giant pictures of Gerhard Schroeder grin on video screens next to the stage accompanied by the caption: "I'm ready."

Schroeder, the slogan tells a glitzy rally of Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), is ready to replace Chancellor Helmut Kohl. But are the party rank and file ready to help him? Judging by their response after Schroeder's appearance at a rally on Friday evening, they are.

The party faithful are willing to put aside reservations in their hearts. That is because their heads tell them Schroeder represents the best chance of defeating Kohl's center-right coalition in September's general election.

"He speaks to a different audience and has a way of presenting himself which we're not used to in this party," said Thorsten Bydlowski, the chairman of one of the SPD's local branches in Bochum, the town where the rally was held.

While other speakers appealed to

the emotions of the 4,000 supporters at the gathering, Schroeder gave a more reserved performance concentrating on economic policy.

That may not win as much applause as fond references to the SPD's only post-war chancellors, Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt. But the party grassroots knows the SPD must display economic expertise if it is to convince voters that it can tackle record unemployment - the key campaign issue.

"He put the economy to the fore, but that's the theme just now," said civil servant Ute Veyen, as balloons in the party colors of red and white floated from the ceiling at the end of the rally.

Although Schroeder, the premier of Lower Saxony state, has been an SPD member for more than 30 years and comes from a working-class background, he is viewed as something of an outsider in the center-left party.

"Of course there's one or two positions where I have a different view," Schroeder told *Der Spiegel* in an interview to be published today. "If you say that, the party tolerates it. That's how I've

worked politically."

The 53-year-old's telegenic charm, pro-business policies, and pragmatic ability to change positions arouse the suspicion among some party members that he really does not belong in the SPD.

Friday's rally in Bochum, a bastion of SPD support in Germany's Ruhr Valley industrial heartland, was the first chance for ordinary party members to experience Schroeder since he was nominated as chancellor candidate last Monday.

"It was a great start to the election campaign," said Bernd Samplatzki, a 26-year-old economics student. "He's convinced the Ruhr Valley and he'll convince Germany."

The SPD faithful were deprived of a direct comparison between Schroeder and party chairman Oskar Lafontaine, a fiery orator who had to call off his appearance because of flu.

The pair have cultivated an image of mutual harmony but both wanted the chance to be the party's candidate for chancellor.

A landslide victory for Schroeder

in a Lower Saxony state election a week ago, however, gave the left-leaning Lafontaine no option but to bow out of the race and support his rival.

Even the mention of Lafontaine's name, however, brought sustained and loud applause. As long as Lafontaine backs Schroeder, so will the party foot soldiers.

So Schroeder's talk of modernization, getting new products to market quicker, and the importance of service industries is warmly applauded even though it tugs at no heartstrings.

In fact, some party members clearly feel the SPD has virtually ended Kohl's 16-year reign, simply by choosing a popular candidate who appeals to centrist voters.

The rock anthem "We Are the Champions" by Queen blasted out at the end of the rally. It was probably just as well Schroeder had warned the audience victory was not yet theirs.

"I warn against euphoria because we have seven hard months ahead of us," he cautioned.

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Hindu nationalists inch closer to assuming power in India

By NARAYANAN MADHAVAN

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Hindu nationalists moved closer to ruling India yesterday as the centrist Congress party admitted its chances of forming a new government had narrowed.

Key constituents of the center-left United Front alliance, whose support Congress has been seeking after inconclusive general elections, came out against the party, puncturing its hopes of stopping the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"It seems we don't have much chance now. But we will continue our efforts," Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil said. The BJP and its allies have bagged 252

seats, 20 short of a clear majority among 543 elected seats in the lower house, Lok Sabha.

Congress, which has the support of 166 lawmakers, had been eyeing the 15-party United Front, which has 96 deputies.

Small regional groups and independents hold the key to a delicate balance that analysts say heralds a political mess.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), which is a key player in the United Front alliance, appeared resigned to the BJP taking the first shot at power but vowed yesterday to vote against a BJP-led coalition.

"In the eventuality of the BJP being asked to form a government, the CPI-M

along with other Left and secular forces will oppose this government during the confidence vote on the floor of the Sabha," the party said in a statement.

Asked about Congress attempts to cobble together a coalition government, Harkishan Singh Surjeet, CPI-M's general secretary, said: "There is no attempt now, we have not received any communication... They (Congress) are also watching the situation in the BJP."

The BJP elected its would be prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, as the head of its parliamentary group on Saturday.

"We have reached this far, the destination is not very far now," Vajpayee said in

his acceptance speech. Analysis says the BJP has an uphill task in accommodating the wishes of regional allies that powered its strong performance.

The BJP, shunned by rivals for its alleged bias against 111 million minority Moslems, has been mellowed by its allies. It says it will rule on the basis of a "common national agenda" made with them.

Stock markets initially cheered the BJP, which promises to protect domestic industry in a market-friendly environment, but the mood changed on Friday amid expectations of a fragile coalition. The 30-share Bombay index lost six points to 3,708.50.

The front members have been seething against Congress since November, when

the party ended 18 months of critical but uneasy support for the coalition formed to oust the BJP in another fragmented parliament elected in 1996.

Two left-wing parties in the front, the All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party, with seven members between them, decided on Saturday to oppose the 112-year-old Congress.

The regional Telugu Desam Party (TDP), with 12 members, has also said it is reluctant to support the party.

Two front constituents want to support Congress, but the alliance is divided. "Inside the United Front, there is no unanimity at the moment," communist leader A.B. Bardhan said.

Jerusalem 1150

Purim on parade

By HELEN KAYE

Seven years ago, the end of the Gulf War coincided with Purim. This year could have been a replay, but it isn't. So on with the funny hats. Make with the noise-makers, and let's celebrate the one holiday in the Jewish calendar on which it's almost an obligation for a Jew to drink himself into oblivion, or *ad lo yada*.

Years ago, Tel Aviv annually put on the Adloyada, a Purim parade that went down Allenby complete with puppets, marchers, clowns, music and noise. Then, because of cost, dwindling enthusiasm and then apathy, it died out.

This year, to celebrate the jubilee, the city is bringing back the Adloyada bigger and better than ever. It features some 10,000 participants and the more than 50 floats, some of them with puppets more than four meters tall, will carry tableaux of the people and events from the founding of the state to the present. There'll be moving stages complete with entertainers, marching bands, dancers, old cars, clowns, jugglers and what not. The parade will be broadcast live on Channel 2.

It all starts Thursday at 11 a.m. at the intersection of Ben-Yehuda and Yirmiyahu and ends where Yehuda Halevi crosses Allenby. If it rains, the parade will be on Friday.

More of the same is happening in Holon on the same day, except that this Adloyada is at night and is billed as Light, Sound and Pyrotechnics. Its subject is heroes, children's heroes and mostly the ones from books and on kiddie TV shows, like Smurfs, Power Rangers, dinosaurs, Ami and Tami, Peter Pan and more. This parade also has marching bands, jugglers, dancers and so on, with guest marchers from Poland and Germany. The parade starts at 6 p.m. It will go along Sokolow and Weizmann, ending up at the municipality for a grand fireworks display at the municipality.

The Habama Theater in Jerusalem offers a three-day Italian-type carnival from Wednesday through Friday in the spirit of Megillat Esther. There'll be a parade, much like the others mentioned, but with the Purim theme and on a more modest budget. The route is from the Hyatt Garden through the Ben-Yehuda Mall, ending in Zion Square. On Wednesday it's at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., and on Thursday at 8:30 p.m. There will also be performances by Habama actors in *Diknot Kalim Be-Shushan* (or Little

Depressions on Shushan) which blends the familiar Purim story and characters with the style and masks of commedia dell'arte, Italy's famed street theater that flourished in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In fact the masks are originals, brought from Italy by director Adriano Iuressevic, who runs the Venice Commedia dell'Arte School. The shows are Wednesday through Friday at 8:30 p.m. at Gerard Behar (Beit Ha'am).

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem is getting into the spirit with performances on Thursday and Friday by the Young Kibbutz Dance Company of kiddie favorites *Pictures at an Exhibition* and *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Show times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

And definitely right up there, award-winning puppeteer Eric Smith offers his version of the Andersen Legends in Tel Aviv. In this musical, Children's Channel stars Erez Ben-Harush and Nadav Assulin are flanked by Smith's wonderful, near life-size puppets. He, Ben-Harush and Camer actor Yossi Graber adapted Hans Christian Andersen's timeless stories. Singer, actor and composer Rafi Weinstock — who's a hot star in Europe now — wrote the music.

In this musical, Ben-Harush coaxes a statue of Andersen (Assulin) into life, and he tells his stories, including *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea* and *Thumbelina*.

There's a modern tale here, too. This production is a renewal of one that ran for years in the '80s, when Graber played Andersen. That production burned when the truck returning from a show in Eilat caught fire. Smith has painstakingly replaced some of the puppets and made new ones for this production, as well as completely new sets and costumes, of course.

One of the most consistently unsung artists around, the gentle puppeteer has been enchanting audiences from five to 99 since he first came here from his native South Africa in 1967. Unlike too many other children's theater practitioners, Smith (through his naively sophisticated puppets) never condescends to his young audiences. Recently, he has been winning international acclaim for his computer animations at computer-art exhibitions.

Andersen Legends is at Tel Aviv's Duhai Auditorium, where the Eric Smith Puppet Theater is based. Performances are on Thursday and Friday at 11:30 a.m., and at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

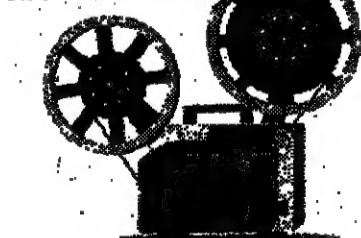


Prize-winning puppeteer Eric Smith offers his version of the Andersen legends in Tel Aviv.

(Yossi Zwickler)

An uplifting uprising

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Steven Spielberg's latest historical drama, *Amistad*, opens on a dark and stormy 1839 night, off the coast of Cuba, where a group of Africans locked in the cargo hold of a Spanish slave ship break free from their shackles and stage a violent rebellion.

AMISTAD

★★★

Directed by Steven Spielberg. Written by David Franzoni. Hebrew title: *Amistad*. 154 minutes. English, Spanish and Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised. With Anthony Hopkins, Morgan Freeman, Nigel Hawthorne, Matthew McConaughey, Djimon Hounsou, Pete Postlethwaite and Anna Paquin.

After taking control of the vessel and ordering the surviving crew members to steer them back home, they find themselves imprisoned again, this time in a Connecticut jail where they're held on charges

of murder and piracy. The story of the legal and emotional aftermath of their uprising, the movie climaxes in a dramatic speech before the US Supreme Court by former president John Quincy Adams (Anthony Hopkins) who comes out of retirement to argue eloquently on the Africans' behalf, and wins them back their freedom.

To reveal the victorious nature of the close is not, I think, to ruin the film. Even if one is unfamiliar with the facts surrounding the actual case of *La Amistad*, one can't help but sense as one watches the movie that it has to wind up this way. Spielberg, being Spielberg, seems constitutionally incapable of offering a harsh historical lesson without this spoonful of sugar to help it go down, the proverbial happy ending, with many hopeful clues sprinkled along the way to assure us there's uplift ahead... which is not to say that the events depicted here did not take place. (According to all accounts I've read, David Franzoni's script sticks fairly close to the record.) Oskar Schindler, too, was a real historical figure who saved real Jews from what would have been their very real deaths.

But there is something troubling about Spielberg's selective notion of history as a series of lusciously photographed triumphs of the human spirit, each set to gushy music by kitchmeister John Williams. And the fact that both *Schindler's List* and, to a lesser though still notable degree, *Amistad*, have become standard texts in social-studies classrooms



Anthony Hopkins is John Quincy Adams.

around the world only compounds the discomfort one feels as one takes in the corner, more obviously fabricated scenes.

It seems telling as well that both films focus on the redemption of a basically faceless group of downtrodden souls by a sympathetic and powerful outsider. But this perhaps is how Steven Spielberg sees himself, as the savior of these poor historical events, which need him — and his big, broad Hollywood imagination — to rescue them from oblivion.

Spielberg cannot of course be faulted for thinking cinematically. As a movie director, that is his job. One sometimes wonders, though,

if in his quest for the visually grand, the great technicolor moment, he hasn't forgotten whose cause his images are meant to serve, his own or history's. (It is, admittedly, naive to ask.) The most flamboyantly movie-ish scenes in *Amistad* focus on the brutal torture of crowds of naked Africans during the notorious Middle Passage, when the slaves are routinely starved, beaten and even drowned; there is an uncomfortable echo here of the gas-chamber scenes in *Schindler's List*, when crowds of naked Jews are rounded up and herded into the showers. In both cases, one has a keen sense that Spielberg is pushing it — going too far with his camera, rendering almost pornographic events that might be better left to our horrified imaginations, or to documentary evidence. It is as if he feels he must prove these events by means of his own recreations, a notion flawed as it is hubristic: the patent dishonesty of these simulations would seem to make them prime fodder for deniers and revisionists.

In many ways, *Amistad* is a different sort of film from *Schindler's List*. It's a courtroom drama and so is by nature stiffer, less dynamic and sometimes even humorous in ways that Spielberg wouldn't — or couldn't — let the Holocaust movie be. The new film lacks, in all but a few scenes, the visceral sweep of *Schindler*, which is not necessarily a bad thing; in fact, some of the better moments in *Amistad* come in the form of quiet, almost static, exchanges between the characters,

with the camera standing still.

On the down side, *Amistad* lacks the strong, ambiguous figure of a Schindler at its center. Beautiful Benin-native and former fashion model Djimon Hounsou provides a powerful visual presence, but his noble-African-warrior character is a cliché: the film is essentially told from a white perspective, as *Schindler's List* was really a gentile's tale. And though Adams serves as the film's moral linchpin, Hopkins plays the cranky role in a clownish, almost camp fashion that is entertaining (he bears more than a passing resemblance here to Frank Morgan's Wizard of Oz), but keeps the character from ever taking shape as a full-blown, complex hero. And many of Hopkins's would-be nuanced scenes are destroyed by the jarring use of Williams's sanctimonious score. No matter how crotchety and believable Adams's behavior, this deadly music keeps rushing in to entomb him as Sixth President Of The United States. Son of A Founding Father.

Morgan Freeman is a surprisingly negligible force as a thoughtful abolitionist (a fictional character) and Matthew McConaughey overacts terribly as an opportunistic young real-estate lawyer who takes up the Africans' cause. There are also numerous supporting characters on hand — including president Martin Van Buren (Nigel Hawthorne) and the 11-year-old queen of Spain (Anna Paquin), both of whom are made to look bumbling and heartless in ways that seem, like so much of the film, too easy.

Down and dirty in Reshet's 'Oz'

By BARRY DAVIS

Mention "Emerald City" or "Oz" to most native English-speakers, or to anyone with a reasonable grounding in Western children's literature, and the response will probably have something to do with a certain Ms. Garland wending her merry way along a thoroughfare with yellow paving stones.

But Reshet's new series, made by Oscar-winning executive producer Barry Levinson — whose notable offerings include *Rain Man*, *Good Morning Vietnam* and *Wag The Dog* — is anything but a fairy tale.

Oz is the nickname of the Oswald Maximum Security Prison, and Emerald City is the brightly lit, squeaky clean, ultra-modern, politically correct experimental unit of the prison. *Em City* is run by an idealistic Tim McManus, who firmly believes that the men in his charge are not beyond redemption. But unbridled violence abounds, and the stark laws of the jungle are spelled out in one-syllable words to anyone whom the establishment — that is, the inmates' establishment — feels needs a little guidance.

Each episode opens with '60s-style credits and music, against a backdrop of all possible facets of life in *Em City* — the gorier, it seems, the better.

In the first episode, a female jailer explains the laws of the land to a bunch of newcomers in typically uncompromising manner. They are told to follow the rules and that they will be told when to sleep, when to eat, and even when to empty their bladder.

Oz is saturated with a pervading sense of impending doom and disaster. The dramatically sharp camera work heightens the feeling that all hell may break out at any moment. But it's not all rough and tumble, and *M*A*S*H* fans will be heartened by the generous sprinkling of black humor between the blood, guts and tattooed behemoths. As lights go out at the regulation 10 p.m. curfew, the female jailer sets the mood with an off-handed: "There's something in the air, and it ain't love."

Oz is a melting pot of African-Americans, Hispanics, Italians, Aryans and Moslems. Their world is described by wheelchair-bound prisoner Augustus Hill, who gives us the benefit of his philosophical musings — straight into the camera: "Oz is where I live, and Oz is where



Augustus Hill (Harold Perrineau) offers philosophical thoughts on life, Oz and the universe.

most of us will die," he states unequivocally.

More *M*A*S*H*-like ribaldry is dished up by the prison nun who has some of the best lines in the show. When McManus tells Sister Marie he wants to withdraw a prisoner's conjugal-visit rights, the nun tells him bluntly that if he doesn't stop playing God, "the real one's going to get very pissed off."

Another good line comes from a prisoner doing time for murdering his parents and committing an act of cannibalism. Denying having eaten both his parents, he says: "I only ate my mom; I was saving my dad for Thanksgiving."

The lines between reality inside and outside the prison are often blurred, both in a physical and a spiritual sense. Both Hill and Moslem activist Kareem Said tell us that real freedom exists within each and every one of us. And more question marks about who's inside and who's outside the prison are prompted by one jailer who says that she would love to get another job but is unable to do so for financial reasons: "I'm just like the inmates, trapped."

The moral code is also subject to interpretation. A particularly vicious convicted murderer is thoroughly beaten and subsequently burnt alive when he helps an AIDS victim die — probably the only kindly act poor Dino ever managed in his short life.

Channel 2 airs the first episode of *Oz* tomorrow at 11:30 p.m.

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A French mezzo's sensational debut

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

It is not often that one leaves the concert hall with a sense of a real discovery. But this is exactly what happened last week when young French mezzo-soprano Sophie Koch made her Israeli debut with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA. It was a sensational debut, albeit a very short one, as she performed a 12-minute work with no encores.

Koch said she did not mind singing the relatively short Haydn cantata. "I never knew this work before; it was a great

revelation for me."

Koch came to Israel after making her Royal Opera House Covent Garden debut in London as Rosina in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* conducted by Israeli maestro Asher Fisch. "We had a nice time. It was good entertainment, it was funny, like a cartoon. And that was fine with me because after all, Rosina is a light-hearted character."

After starting her career in small opera houses in France, Koch now sings in leading European opera houses but less so in her native land. "It is

always like that; you are never appreciated at home." The very beautiful Koch speaks fluent English. In contrast to the average contemporary opera singer, she obtained her higher education at the Sorbonne, where she studied economics, politics, literature and philosophy. "Once I got my bachelor's degree, I realized that I had to change and that's when I began studying voice in earnest."

Actually, Koch was confronted with opera when she was 13, performing in an *Alice in Wonderland* opera. Although she

had studied the piano as a child, she could not perform in concert. "Suddenly my hands would get wet. It was the same with reading. I couldn't stand up in class and read out loud. But the first time I sang in public, I had no problem and I knew that was what I must do."

So Koch returned to opera at the age of 21.

And she admits it is a fascinating world. "It is like a child who is alone in an attic and suddenly opens a box and begins to discover a new world." Although she adores singing and wants to make

a career of it, Koch asserts that "human relationships are the most important thing; without them, life is rather poor."

Koch did not manage to see much of Jerusalem on her first Israeli visit, but she hopes to return next season and sing again with the JSO. So do we.

In fact, every local orchestra — the Israel Philharmonic included — should grab Koch while she is still young and available. In a couple of years she will be so busy, she'll have no time for concerts away from the major music centers of the world.

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Undoing the stalemate

In a hearing last week, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright reassured Congress that "There is no such thing as an American [peace] plan... what's essential is for the leaders to figure that out and make the hard decisions."

In case Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was not listening, what Albright meant was there is no point in his waiting for further pressure on Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, fresh from an ironic pilgrimage to Oslo, wants to meet Arafat and finish off the deal that has been simmering for months. What remains is for Arafat to stop declaring the process dead long enough to revive it.

For now, the US seems to have come to the conclusion that officially revealing its proposal to bridge the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians would be counterproductive. Indeed, it is instructive in this regard to remember that when US involvement was minimal, — as in the Oslo process and the Jordan peace treaty — negotiations were successful, and where that involvement was more extensive, — as with Syria — they were not.

The threat of such a step has served to concentrate minds on both sides. The problem with actually releasing a plan is that neither side wants to accept it before the other, thereby compromising its own position with no guarantee that the other side will follow suit. The only way around this catch-22 is for the parties to close the remaining gaps in direct talks. This does not work when the gaps are too deep, but months of futile and snail-like negotiations have worn down the parties to spitting distance from one another.

Spitting, rhetorically speaking, does seem to be a favored form of communication. Though security cooperation, according to the US, is improving, Netanyahu has yet to give Arafat any credit. And Arafat has accused Israel of "choking our livelihood," though the number of Palestinian workers in Israel has risen substantially since 1996.

But now Netanyahu, speaking in Oslo, is reiterating his commitment to implementing the agreement negotiated in that city, and is calling on Arafat to sit down face-to-face and finish the deal.

To be sure, Arafat is not happy with the deal that is shaping up. The contemplated "second redeployment" will be less than what he expected from the previous government. But

Netanyahu will not have an easy time selling his side of the bargain to his coalition, given that this initial withdrawal could go up to, or cross, the "red lines" proposed by ministers Mordechai and Sharon as defining Israel's critical security interests in a final-status settlement.

What is increasingly clear is that Netanyahu is ready for whatever internal battle is ahead to sell an agreement with Arafat, and, more importantly, to proceed immediately to final-status talks. What is not clear is whether Arafat really wants the process to move forward.

Few would argue with Netanyahu's assertion that on two matters, the airport at Dahaniya and the industrial park at Karni, the two sides are only "one centimeter" apart. Netanyahu is reportedly now proposing that these issues be resolved immediately, to be immediately followed by other interim status issues, such as the second redeployment and security cooperation. He then wants to move to final-status negotiations.

Arafat, it seems, does not want to resolve anything, because then he will not be able to say the process is stuck, or even moving "backwards," as he told the Palestinian Legislative Council on Saturday. But this is like holding a door shut with one hand and bemoaning that it will not open with the other. Arafat, in short, is stalling for time, believing that a stalled peace process results in more pressure on Israel than on the Palestinians.

The Albright denial that a US plan would be released is a good start toward disabusing Arafat of the notion that stalling tactics will work to his benefit. So far, however, the US message is not getting across.

The US is not usually in the business of accusing one side or the other of holding up the works. But the US could strengthen its message, without taking sides, by backing Netanyahu's proposal for a summit with Arafat. It is no longer credible for Arafat to refuse direct negotiations on the grounds that nothing will come of it. At this point, it is Netanyahu who clearly wants the process unstuck, and Arafat who does not.

Direct negotiations are not a panacea, but almost every breakthrough in the peace process — with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians — has been accomplished through such direct talks. Israel and the US are for such negotiations, but the US must make its voice even clearer, or Arafat will continue to predict a stalemate of his own making.

Gazit's gaffe

YOSEF GOELL

Former head of military intelligence Shlomo Gazit was right when he labeled the analogy he made at a Tel Aviv University conference last week between the national-religious "knitted-kippa"-wearing soldiers in the IDF and the swastika-wearing Nazi soldiers in the Wehrmacht of World War II "a foolish thing to have said."

What Gazit, who was one of our most intelligent heads of military intelligence and the very model of a devoted public servant in his subsequent civilian life, said was not only foolish; it was monstrous.

It has become quite common for hardy yahoos thugs and rioters to fling the epithets "Nazi" and "kapo" at the police, archeologists or other opponents. But how could an intelligent person like Gazit fall into the same trap of using the Nazi analogy to describe current divisions of opinion in Israel?

Gazit, who was responding from the audience to a lecture by Bar-Ilan University military historian Prof. Stuart Cohen on "The IDF: A Unifying or a Divisive Force?" raised a legitimate issue.

There is not the slightest doubt that "knitted-kippa" soldiers who identify with religious Zionism have made an impressive contribution to the IDF and to Israel's defense. And there is no question that their way is infinitely preferable to the draft-dodging of their anti-Zionist hard-core religionists.

But the question of wearing politically identifiable insignia in the army is a problem.

It is similarly beyond dispute that the socialist and kibbutz-affiliated Palmah units made the greatest contribution to the winning of the War of Independence in 1948 and bore the brunt of the casualties in that war in which the Jewish population of 600,000 suffered 6,000 killed.

Nonetheless, prime minister and defense minister David Ben-Gurion was absolutely correct in disbanding the Palmah's separate High Command because of its

open political identification, which he viewed as a threat to the democratic, civilian control of the armed forces.

It is worth recalling that Ben-Gurion announced his decision not to the Provisional State Council, the forerunner of the Knesset, but to the Mapai-controlled Central Committee of the Histadrut. It is also worth remembering that Mapam, with which most of the Palmah commanders were identified, was conducting an open flirtation with Papa Stalin, "the Sun of All the Nations" as some of the posters in their kibbutz kindergartens would have it.

Just as there was a problem of the ultimate loyalty of Palmah commanders in a period of the Cold War, so is there a potential problem today of the readiness of "knitted-kippa" soldiers to follow orders from their military superiors on military matters in contradiction to the halachic rulings of their various rabbis.

That is the legitimate and pertinent analogy Gazit should have used, rather than the monstrous Nazi one, which should be excised from all public debate in Israel. The entire sorry affair also served as an indication of how difficult it is to conduct a rational debate on serious problems in today's poisonous public atmosphere.

IT IS regrettable that Gazit's gaffe diverted public attention from the main subject of the three-day conference on "National Identity in New States" which was held under the joint auspices of the university and the Rabin Center. There is much that we in Israel, embroiled as we are in the issues connected to the Oslo process and to the forging of our national identity two generations after the winning of our independence, could learn from the presentations which underlined the theme that issues of national identity and the clash between opposing identities were extremely complex.

Prof. Herman Gilliole of the

Dry Bones



University of Cape Town spoke on "Voting one's country away: Homeland and Power in post-Apartheid South Africa." Gilliole, an Afrikaner supporter of the reversing of apartheid and the empowering of the blacks in South Africa, reported on recent problematic developments in which various leaders of the African National Congress who today rule South Africa were apparently backtracking on their earlier commitments to compromise with the Afrikaners which made the transference of power earlier this decade possible.

Prof. Bernard Lewis of Princeton University, who is considered by many the leading scholar on the Middle East of the past two generations, sought to emphasize the complexity of the concept "national identity" in this part of the world. In recalling the mutual imposed transfer of popu-

lations between Greece and Turkey worked out in the aftermath of World War I at the Lausanne Conference, Lewis noted that the agreement did not refer to ethnic Greeks and Turks but to members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey and to Moslems in Greece.

What he did not mention on this occasion was that the man most responsible for working out the population transfer, the Norwegian explorer and League of Nations high commissioner on refugees, Fridtjof Nansen, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922.

The main lesson I learned from the various presentations for our own situation in the diplomatic process was a reinforcing of the truth of the old saw: "How do porcupines make love? Very carefully."

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

A day at Tel Aviv University

STUART A. COHEN

Over the past 27 years, I have spent several days on the campus of Tel Aviv University. The reasons, although varied, will be familiar to anyone acquainted with the conventions and routines of academic life.

There has been a need to make use of the university's fine library, but more often my visits have been in response to invitations to participate in seminars and conferences, or to attend a meeting of some academic committee or another.

Not unexpectedly, over time, personal contacts and some firm friendships have been formed. And it was partly as a result of these that some years ago, I agreed to a last-minute call to fill in for a colleague who had decided to go abroad for a semester, and so found myself teaching a class there.

All such visits to the Ramat Aviv campus have been unexceptional occasions. True, the aura of brasserie projected by some of the buildings and some of their inhabitants has sometimes been a little daunting. True, too, what appears to be a deliberately contrived atmosphere of dyed-in-the-wool cultural secularism has (to my taste) occasionally jarred. But these have been peripheral irritations. I have certainly never had any cause to turn down an invitation to Tel Aviv University, or to regret having accepted one.

Last Wednesday was, in this respect, mark a minor personal watershed. Matters began normally enough. First, there was the invitation to take part in a three-day international conference on "National

Identity in New States" which the Rabin Center at Tel Aviv University planned to convene in order to commemorate the late prime minister's 76th birthday.

Then followed the usual protracted round of further clarifications, some substantive, others logistic. Finally, and in good time, a copy of the final program arrived, naming the other panelists at my particular session and inviting us all to the festive opening session of the conference and to a reception on one of the following evenings.

On the appointed Wednesday morning, I managed to arrive on campus in time enough to say a preliminary hello to the conference organizer (Professor Anita Shapira) and to my fellow panelists and our designated chairman.

The lecture itself passed off without undue incident. On the program, I had been sandwiched between two colleagues, both of whom teach at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. My chosen title was "The IDF: From Nation-Binder to Nation-Divider?" and although Leah Rabin (seated in the front row of the audience of a couple of hundred people) occasionally evinced some visible disquiet at some of my remarks, nothing otherwise untoward occurred.

MATTERS changed dramatically when the formal presentations were over, and the chairman invited questions and comments from the floor. The very first person to be called was Shlomo Gazit, a

one-time head of IDF intelligence, who is now employed by TAU's Jaffee Center.

Addressing one of the topics mentioned during the course of my presentation, Gazit expounded on the dangers supposedly inherent in the license with which national-religious troops in the IDF are allowed to wear a knitted kippa of their own choice. He then — deliberately — compared a knitted kippa to a swastika.

How does one react to that sort of insult? (After all, I was wearing a knitted kippa). Having overcome an immediate impulse to get up and walk out, I spent the next 10 minutes deliberating with myself. Ignore him? Resort to sarcasm? Appeal to reason?

Ultimately, when my turn came to respond, I opted for the latter approach. Whether or not this was a wise choice, is an imponderable — and may even be irrelevant.

Far more germane is the fact that no one else in the entire hall thought fit to pass comment on Gazit's remark. Once the initial buzz (of approval? of disapproval?) had died down, and Gazit had expressed a hurried apology, the discussion proceeded as though nothing had happened. Most of the remaining respondents similarly addressed themselves to my lecture, in one or two cases somewhat abrasively so, but without disassociating themselves from Gazit. Clearly, that was something which I would have to do myself. In some respects, worse still was

to follow.

Once the session was over, all the panelists, were invited to join the conference organizers and their other guests for lunch. But when our small party finally reached the appointed restaurant, I found that we were in The Green House, an establishment rumored not to possess a kosher certificate. Just to be sure, I asked one of the restaurant employees, who confirmed my suspicion. The Green House is not kosher.

The young lady who had led me to the restaurant on behalf of the Rabin Center attempted to express sympathy ("What a pity you came all this way for nothing.")

She failed to grasp that what was lacking was a more basic dose of empathy ("We just didn't think about kosher.") What, then, do other religiously observant guests do? Are they misled into thinking that a restaurant supported by a national university in Israel must be kosher? Or are they — like me — simply left to their own devices?

The parallel with my sensation of estrangement after Gazit's remark was too strong to be ignored. This time, I did walk out. Later on, I met Prof. Shapira outside the lecture hall. As charming as ever, she did apologize — belatedly and privately — both for Gazit's remarks and for the restaurant. How many of her colleagues at Tel Aviv University share her sentiments?

The writer is professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and senior research associate of the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ENGLISH NEWS

Sir, — One could only be filled with shock and dismay to read that the English News is not there on a permanent basis and at the whim of some "wise official," the IBA News in English on television could be discontinued (Time Out, Feb. 27).

Israel has much to learn from our enemies in regard to propaganda. It is not enough to know we are right. We have to let the world know that we are right. The English language is today

the lingua franca of the world. It is the language used and understood by most journalists and diplomats. And it is surely known to the authorities that there are perhaps tens of thousands of new immigrants as well as tourists at any given time, who can speak English but will never be fluent in Hebrew.

What happens is that if there is not enough news in English broadcast locally, one tends to tune in to the newscasts of other TV stations, including our friendly neighbor

(whose media has yet to learn that we have a peace treaty!)

If anything, there is not enough news in English. The English news should be extended and we should have at least a half an hour per day.

It would also be interesting to learn why the powers that be cannot organize the English news broadcasting schedules so as not to encroach on the Sabbath.

HARRY FRIEDGUT

Netanya.

LOYAL OPPOSITION

Sir, — I wish to thank Yossi Beilin for his snide attack on, I assume, Benjamin Netanyahu, our prime minister. Beilin so condescendingly doesn't even mention Netanyahu's name ("It's never his fault," Feb. 24).

Beilin listed so many so-called critical remarks which most Israelis consider compliments. Beilin should surely know that most Israelis favored opening the Western Wall Tunnel, building on Ras el-Amud and on Har Homa;

favor killing terrorists (Mashaal) wherever they are; are shocked to hear the Left's vocal criticism of Judaism, and feel more secure with Bibi leading us rather than Rabin or Peres.

It's common knowledge that the defeated leftist media "cannot absorb the revolt by the minorities." What Beilin meant by the "minorities" requires an explanation. Regarding the loss of support by the whole world, we should recall Abba Eban's remark that if the Arab

world proposed that the world was flat, the majority of the United Nations members would agree.

I suggest that Beilin lick his wounds and cry on the shoulders of Yasser Arafat, as he has been wont to do, and if he is sincere about the peace process to begin supporting the government of Israel as a loyal opposition and not as an adviser to our enemies.

MAISH RUBIN

Beersheba.

MESSAGE OF HATRED

Sir, — Daoud Kuttab ("At the boiling point," March 1) presents a consistent theme of the Arabs/Palestinians as victims. This serves his propaganda purposes, but distorts history and the truth.

For example, 20 years ago a group of Arab terrorists trained in the Soviet Union murdered six (and seriously wounded 16 more) yeshiva students one Friday night in front of Beit Hadassah. The

adjacent Arab bus station, which had been the source of many terrorist attacks, was moved to another part of the city.

The bus station was built in the 1950s on property owned by Jews who had been slaughtered and driven out during the Arab pogroms of 1929. In Hebron alone, 67 Jews were killed and hundreds severely wounded. The Islamic Waqf could not possibly "own" this property.

The Jews in Hebron (civilians as well as soldiers) are subjected to constant attacks by Arab mobs aided by the PA police. Is that a problem? Kuttab's message of hatred and incitement against peaceful co-existence may appeal to the street, but it ravages his integrity.

DR. MOSHE DANN

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 9, 1933, The Palestine Post described at length instances of the manner in which dispossession claims were brought forward by persons who have had no connection with the area they occupied, in order to collect compensation as did, for instance, about 20 Beduin who trespassed on the Jewish land near Kfar Yona and had to be removed.

50 years ago: On March 9, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that Fawzi Kaukji, the notorious Arab gangs leader had left Syria and arrived here to all intents and purposes as the commander of Arab forces in Palestine, and this at the same time when the House of Commons in London discussed his unofficial recognition

by the Palestine Administration as a legitimate representative of the Arab League.

25 years ago: On March 9, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that one soldier was killed and another wounded when a terrorist grenade exploded inside the cabin of their truck in Gaza.

Alexander Zvielli

The recent Israeli initiative concerning south Lebanon caught Hafez Assad off guard. For years, the Syrian president called all the shots in Lebanon, in the face of a passive Israel whose political and military reactions to the increasing success of Hizbullah terrorism offered no inspiration, imagination or adaptation to changing circumstances.

Finally, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's initiative of accepting UN Security Council Resolution 425 of March 30, 1978, put some pressure on Assad. Both Lebanese and international quarters are likely to ask some questions about Syria's refusal to allow Israel a dignified and complete withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territory.

Clearly, Assad has a ready-made answer: that the fate of the Golan Heights and south Lebanon are closely related and there should be no separate deal between Lebanon and Israel at a time when the latter shows no willingness to abide by Syria's diktat regarding the Golan Heights, i.e., a return to the pre-June 1967 lines.

In Syrian political terminology, a separate deal is anathema, a painful

reminder of the Camp David and Oslo accords, both signed, according to Syria, behind its back and in flagrant avoidance of its rights and interests. This time, Hafez Assad is determined to prevent this from happening in his backyard.

Here lies the most fundamental Syrian obligation to any diplomatic initiative concerning Lebanon: Syria's deep-rooted conviction that Lebanon is an integral part of the Great Syrian Homeland, hence its very existence and political fate are dependent on Syria's good will. In 1943-44, the British negotiated with the emerging Arab states the formation of the Arab League, and Syria's leaders were told in no uncertain terms that their own independence was linked to their acceptance of a separate Lebanese state. The Syrians listened, made some unpleasant noises about Lebanon's rights, Maronite aspirations and the injustice caused to Syria by colonial machinations, and finally ratified the League Covenant, recognizing de facto Lebanese independence.

But it was a qualified recognition. Syria never formally accepted Lebanon's independence; to this very day there are no regular, formal diplomatic relations between the two countries. Assad did not initiate this tradition, but he inherited it and has never shown any desire to deviate from it. On the contrary, since his rise to power, and more so since Lebanon's Civil War of 1975-6 and the Israeli withdrawal of May-June 1985, he relates to Lebanon as a Syrian colony whose foreign and military policies are completely subjugated to Syria's.

Those Lebanese who dared challenge Syria paid with their lives, and the long list consists of such illustrious names as Kamal Jumblatt, Bashir Gemayel and Dany Charouni. Each had his own vision for Lebanon's future, but all paid the ultimate price for presenting Lebanese policies contrary to Syria's.

Assad is not going to change this time. He already summoned Lebanon's leaders and dictated to them his reaction to Israel's initiative. Moreover, it should come as

no surprise if, on this unceremonious occasion, Syria again uses terrorism as a means of coercing and frightening those elements in Lebanon which might show even the slightest interest in Israel's proposals (which, under normal circumstances, should be greeted with fanfare by every Lebanese patriot, regardless of his sectarian affiliation.)

The Lebanese know it, too, and will necessarily take precautions, something which will almost certainly make the Israeli initiative irrelevant. The Syrians might also encourage Hizbullah to intensify its attacks against Israeli targets, so we are likely to see more trouble in Lebanon in the near future.

Nonetheless, Assad is in a predicament; he must explain to the Europeans and Americans why he is preventing Lebanon from exercising its full sovereignty over an area which is under occupation. This is not something that he cannot handle; it's just a new and troublesome element in a situation which hitherto offered him only advantages and paid him good dividends.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

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Living Dangerously

Indonesian Faceoff: Drawing Blood Without Bombs

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — As the United States geared up last month for an intensive bombing campaign over Iraq, the Clinton Administration weighed its chances of crippling Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological war-making abilities against the certainty that the attack would kill hundreds or thousands of Iraqis. Years of sanctions had already brought suffering to Iraqi civilians; the prospect of killing many more, on camera no less, eroded the international enthusiasm for a military solution.

Switch now to the other side of the globe and a less traditional crisis posing equally difficult choices. In Indonesia, the United States and its allies, working through the International Monetary Fund, are engaged in an increasingly high-stakes struggle to force radical change in a country run by an enigmatic 78-year-old who could teach Saddam a thing or two about the mean art of authoritarian control. Yet America vs. President Suharto is the kind of post-cold war conflict that doesn't yield the sort of vivid television images broadcast from the Persian Gulf. There's nothing more dramatic than watching pilots zoom off the flight deck of the carrier *Independence*, and nothing more sleep-inducing than watching F.B.I. economists at the I.M.F. launch their spreadsheets.

Sometimes, though, benign images can be deceptive. And behind the haze of economic jar-

Suharto is no Saddam, but lives and stability are in the balance.

gon surrounding the Indonesia crisis — the talk of currency boards and cartels, crony capitalism, rampant corruption and the exchange rate for the rupiah — lies a calculus that both Mr. Suharto and Washington know is as brutal and real-life as any in Iraq.

Mr. Suharto is defying the economic mandates of the I.M.F. — and the officials in Washington who influence it — because he views the conditions they placed on a \$43 billion bailout plan as a Western effort to diminish his power and undercut the sovereignty of the world's fourth most populous nation. But in the tradition of centuries of Javanese rulers, he is also a master strategist. And he is betting that Washington and the I.M.F., despite their clearly worded warnings last week, do not have the nerve to cut off his emergency aid.

Ugly Prospects

He may be right. If the I.M.F. pulls out, there is every likelihood that the result could be very bloody: rising prices that spark more food riots and more violence directed at the country's wealthy ethnic Chinese minority, and potential for major political upheaval. None of that is a certainty, of course, and many fear unrest even if the I.M.F. continues its loans to Jakarta. But the human toll could be as ugly as lobbing smart bombs at Baghdad.

Henry Kissinger cut to the heart of the issue last week in a talk that dwelled at length on a place he came to know when domino theory described countries threatened by Commu-



In panic buying during Indonesia's economic crisis, people in Jakarta pressed forward for cooking oil in January.

nism, not cronyism. This time, he said, it was the West looking to change the region. "If the definition of a revolution is fundamental change in the economic and political system," he said in a talk at the Brookings Institution, "then what we are trying to engineer in some of these countries is clearly a revolution."

Nobody in official Washington, least of all Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, who has been overseeing the confrontation with Mr. Suharto since Indonesia's economic meltdown began in October, would use a word like "revolution." Washington's most famous former Wall Street trader is clearly uncomfortable when the subject turns to the huge political upheavals implicit in the I.M.F. plan. Instead, Mr. Rubin prefers the seemingly apolitical language of the financial world, talking about the need to "restore market confidence" and for "transparency" in Indonesian decisions.

Undercutting Suharto

But make no mistake about it: Letting the I.M.F. work its will in Indonesia threatens Mr. Suharto's control over the country as surely as letting arms inspectors into Iraq threatens Mr. Hussein's. Though worded more politely, the face-off with Mr. Suharto is now a political as well as an economic struggle. Just look at who is crowding the daily meetings on Indonesia at the White House — not only Mr. Rubin and his financial experts but top State Department officials, C.I.A. analysts, Pentagon brass and national security aides.

When President Clinton needed a personal envoy to take his message to President Su-

Baghdad is high-profile. Jakarta is not. Benign images deceive.

harto face to face, he chose a political heavyweight: former Vice President Walter F. Mondale. Mr. Mondale spent an hour with Mr. Suharto and his aides talking economics, followed by a private conversation to discuss political realities. The markets, Mr. Mondale said, would vote with their dollars when Mr. Suharto chooses his next economic team. Translation: Install a bunch of I.M.F.-bashing cronies and your economy will be washed into the South China Sea.

The White House called it a fruitful exchange of views, but one official warned: "You have to remember that we were dealing with the Javanese answer to Machiavelli. No one knows what Suharto is really planning, and no one has known for 30 years."

What they do know is that Mr. Suharto is a survivor extraordinaire. His economy may be collapsing around him, the I.M.F. may be attacking his relatives' and cronies' enterprises, riots may be breaking out across the country, but his grip on Indonesia seems stronger than ever. On Wednesday his hand-picked legislature is expected to rubber-stamp another five-year term. And his choice for vice president — his possible successor should he not serve out his next term — has Washington worried: B. J. Habibie is the very model of the modern crony capitalist, the driving force in a giant national aircraft project that the I.M.F. is attempting to junk.

So why is Washington going to all this trouble? After all, Indonesia is no Japan, even

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I Bill, Therefore I Am

Philosophers Ponder a Therapy Gold Mine

By JOE SHARKEY



WHEN he was starting out as a standup comedian in the 1960's, Woody Allen joked about being expelled from college for cheating on a philosophy exam: "I looked within the soul of the boy sitting next to me," he said.

Three decades (and 30 years of personal psychotherapy) later, Mr. Allen still sprinkles his movie scripts with references to philosophers like Kierkegaard and Kant, as well as to psychoanalysts like Freud.

There may be a lesson here — at least if you're a philosopher. Taking note of psychotherapy's mixed record during its century-long domination of the effort to address people's practical problems of living, some philosophers have begun to scamp back down from the ivory tower to conduct business the way Socrates did — by returning, literally, to the marketplace.

They are hanging out their shingles. Springing from a movement that began in Germany in the 1980's, a small but growing number of American philosophers have opened private practices as "philosopher practitioners," offering a therapy based on the idea that solutions to many personal, moral and ethical problems can be found not in psychotherapy or Prozac but deep within the 2,500-year-old body of philosophical discourse.

"Psychiatry and psychology ultimately have failed people," said Lou Marinoff, a professor of philosophy at City College in New York who has been seeing private clients — at \$100 a session, about what psychologists get — since 1991. Dr. Marinoff, who estimates that there are several dozen philosophers in private practice in the United States, wants to lead like-minded colleagues back to their ancient place at the center of the emotional

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Fudge Factory

The Big Bang needs another Band-Aid.

By George Johnson

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When It Rains, It Rains
Learning from the city that's proud to be wet.

By Tim Egan

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Against the Grain
Entrepreneurship vs. traditional Japanese values.

By Sheryl WuDunn

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Ideas & Trends

Once Upon a Time, There Was a Big Bang Theory

By GEORGE JOHNSON

THE idea once seemed so elegant and simple: The universe began with a bang. Wherever astronomers pointed their telescopes, the distant galaxies were shooting away like stellar shrapnel. And permeating the space in between was a uniform glow of radiation — surely the afterglow of an ancient explosion.

Piece by piece, the story of creation clicked together. The equations of the Big Bang could even be used to predict the relative amounts of the lighter elements, hydrogen, helium and lithium, created early in cosmic history. Again theory matched observation with a precision that was wondrous to behold.

But the theoretical paradise was not to last. In recent years, with one problem after another confronting the Big Bang, the universe no longer appears so well behaved.

The latest blow came late last month. It had long been expected that the gravitational tug of the galaxies against one another would rein in the universal explosion, the inward pull precisely balancing the outward expansion, keeping it in check. Theorists were understandably shocked when the Feb. 27 issue of *Science* reported strong evidence that the expansion is speeding up, implying the existence of some kind of unexplained repulsive force counteracting gravity.

That conclusion, though still tentative, is the latest in a series of surprises that theorists have been straining to understand. As the astronomers' tools of observation have grown more and more acute, it has become necessary to add one elaboration after another to the original Big Bang theory — the existence of a brief "inflationary epoch" right after the initial explosion; vast amounts of invisible, unexplained "dark matter," and now, perhaps, some mysterious something that is accelerating the cosmic expansion.

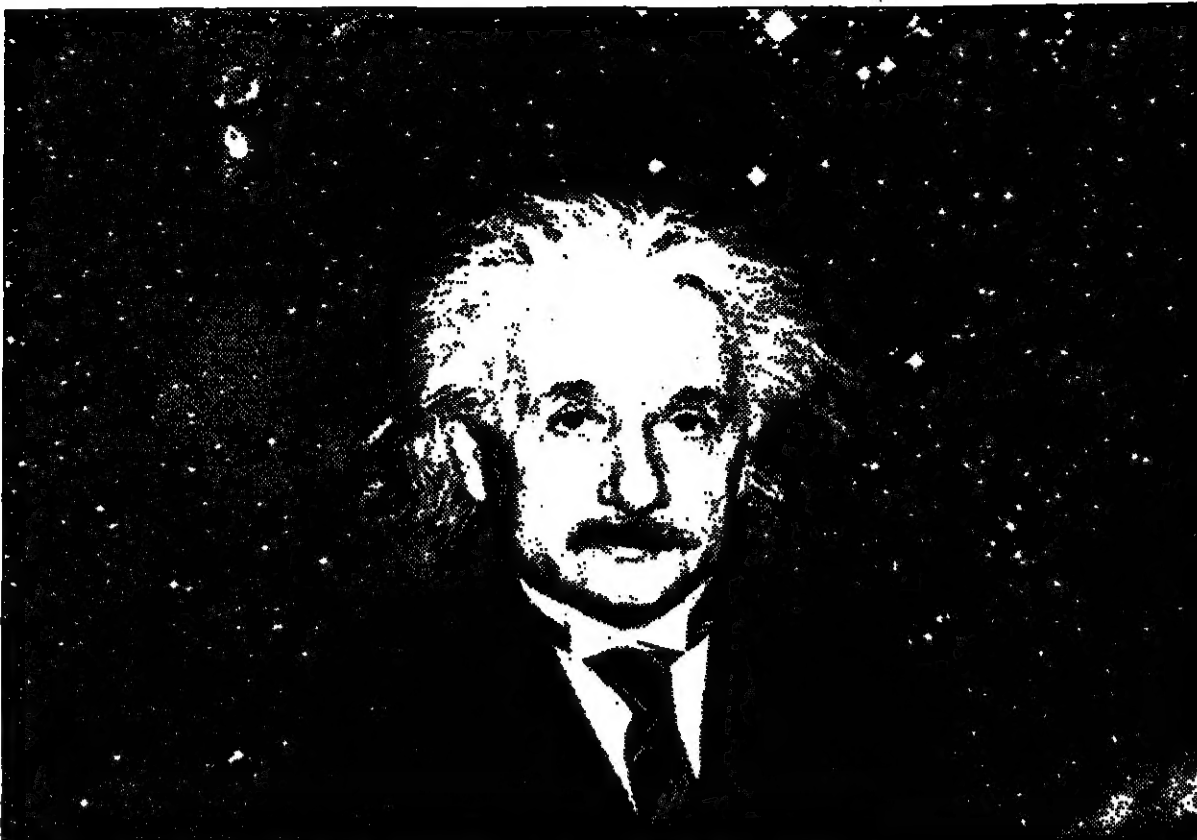
For those on the outside looking in, it is hard to know whether to marvel at these filigrees or to recoil at a theory that is seeming more and more like a kludge — programmers' jargon for a piece of buggy software, with one patch slapped on top of another in a desperate attempt to keep it from crashing.

With no other remotely viable candidate, most theorists think the Big Bang will survive, even if its sleek modernist lines are tending toward the baroque. But some scientists have taken to calling cosmology — the craft of making theories of the universe — cosmetology. There always seems to be another blemish to cover up.

'Greatest Blunder'

One of the first to get an inkling of what came to be called the Big Bang was Albert Einstein, who absolutely hated the idea. In 1917, he was dismayed to realize that his general theory of relativity implied that the universe was either contracting or expanding. Figuratively slapping his forehead — everybody knew the universe was sitting still — he added a term to his equations later called a cosmological constant, a fudge factor intended to cancel out any change in size.

Later, after astronomers had amassed compelling evidence that the galaxies indeed were speeding away from the earth and from each other, Einstein famously



Albert Einstein devised a fudge factor to reconcile anomalies in the universe.

called the cosmological constant his "greatest blunder." He may have spoken too soon. Over the years, the constant has been dragged out of the trash can and reconsidered whenever the cosmos wasn't behaving as it should.

Almost as soon as it was formulated, the Big Bang ran into trouble.

Indirectly measuring the distance of the galaxies and the speed at which they appeared to be flying away, the great astronomer Edwin Hubble concluded that two billion years had passed since everything was clumped together waiting to explode. But geologists using another scientific yardstick, the rate at which uranium decays into lead, calculated that the Earth itself was twice that old.

This embarrassment was quickly resolved. The speed of the galaxies was gauged by how much their light was stretched toward the red end of the spectrum, somewhat in the way that a receding siren will sound as though it is falling in pitch. Measuring the galaxies' distance was even more oblique. One had to theorize about how bright certain celestial objects would be if one could stand right next to them and behold them full blast. Compare this hypothesized intrinsic brightness with the dimness of the light that actually reached Earth, and one could estimate the distance in between.

There was plenty of theoretical wiggle room. Cosmic dust, a fudge factor as useful as the cosmological constant, might obscure a star or galaxy, making it appear

farther away than it really was. Or one's theory about the actual brightness might be wrong.

Hubble was measuring distance using pulsating stars called Cepheids. For some reason, their rate of blinking told how bright they really were. It turned out that not all Cepheids behaved the same. Readjusting the calculations, astronomers were able to come up with a universe old enough to contain the earth.

The theory still had more doubters than believers until around 1965, when the astronomers Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered the ubiquitous background radiation, the left-over flash of the primordial explosion. Add to that the successful prediction of the abundance of the lighter elements created after the blast and the theory seemed to be clinched.

Miracles

But not everything could be accounted for. Why, for example, did the background radiation appear to have precisely the same temperature everywhere? The coincidence seemed too good to be true. More miraculous still was the unlikely shape of the universe. A "closed" universe is curved so that the whole thing will eventually collapse. An "open" universe will expand forever. But for various reasons, our own universe seemed to be "flat," poised between the two extremes.

Barring the existence of a benevolent dictator, how did everything become so finely tuned?

The universe is shrinking.

No, it's expanding. It's slowing down. No, it's speeding up. But the caveats are coming even faster.

An answer came in 1979 when the physicist Alan Guth proposed that, just after the primal explosion, the universe temporarily kicked into overdrive and began wildly expanding, doubling and doubling and doubling again. This inflationary epoch lasted the tiniest fraction of a second. But according to the calculations, this was enough to even out the radiation and flatten the curvature — to smooth out the wrinkles in the Big Bang. The cosmological constant was back.

But then cosmologists began to worry that the radiation was too smooth, indicating a featureless, homogeneous early universe that inexplicably gave way to the irregular cosmos, studded with stars and galaxies and great galactic clusters, that is seen today. The universe wasn't old enough, it seemed, nor gravity strong enough, for so much matter to have congealed. And so came the next modification. Cosmologists had already found that a theorized substance called dark matter was extremely useful for getting theory to mesh with reality. If the universe contained enough of this invisible stuff, it might provide the extra gravitational pull to form the large-scale structures.

The Big Bang was simple no more. And now it seems to be getting even more convoluted.

Lost in Space

If the universe indeed was flattened by an inflationary smoothing, balanced between collapsing and becoming rarefied into nothingness, then the expansion should be gradually slowing, though never by enough to cause an ultimate collapse. Stuff farther out and, thus, farther back in time, should be receding just a tiny bit faster than stuff closer in. Using exploding stars called supernovas as their measuring beacons — the rate at which they flare and fade is used to estimate how bright they really are — astronomers have reluctantly come to conclude in recent weeks that the expansion may be perversely accelerating.

It is still possible that the astronomers have been victims of an optical illusion, as Hubble was with the Cepheids. Meanwhile, theorists are prepared for more tinkering, talking about giving the cosmological constant another run. Some cosmologists are proposing a hypothetical stuff called quintessence that fills the rocks and crannies of space. Quintessence was the name for Aristotle's fifth element, beyond earth, air, fire and water, the ethereal substance of the heavenly spheres.

The name is meant to be ironic, but it is a reminder that so much of our understanding about the cosmos is up in the air again.

Self-Starters

Learning to Go Against Japan's Corporate Grain

By SHERYL WADUNN

A JAPANESE executive was describing his company's efforts to spin off a smaller unit when he suddenly leaned forward and asked that his name not be used.

In a low voice, he said with a touch of embarrassment: "If this happens, we will have an image as an innovator."

Horrors!

This desire to innovate while not being openly seen as doing so may explain why the Japanese have not quite embraced a concept that has built America and contributed to its vitality: entrepreneurship.

They don't even have a good word for it. They have a few expressions, like *kigyō ka* ("one who starts a business"), but somehow the terms don't quite have the same ringing spirit in a nation not known for a go-it-alone attitude.

So the Japanese have just imported the word *antōrenpū* whole, along with launching rounds of discussions about its spirit.

As the Asian economic crisis continues, it has become painfully obvious here that traditional Japanese values are interfering with the country's attempt to build the kind of entrepreneurial spirit that could lead it out of its seven-year slump.

Japan fears that it will fall behind America and Europe, and perhaps even Asian countries like South Korea, unless it can change the dynamism of its economy.

A Fear of Losing Ground

Although Japan may have the second biggest economy in the world, its companies are vast, bureaucratic conglomerates at a time when entrepreneurial, information-age companies are dominant.

In short, they are too much like Mitsui and not enough like Microsoft. Government officials and business executives fear the country is losing ground in an emerging global economy that will increasingly reward creativity, flexibility and entrepreneurship, which is a rarity here. While entrepreneurship is not looked down on, it doesn't merit much pres-

tige, either.

"It's not receiving the appropriate attention or respect," said Yoshihiko Miyauchi, a creative iconoclast and the president of Orix Corporation, a leasing company. "People do not aim to become like Bill Gates."

Japan is now grappling with ways to inspire entrepreneurship and innovation in a society that looks askance at those who venture out alone. The new campaign to create individuals in the most communitarian of societies — and nurture risk takers in a nation exceedingly risk averse — faces huge obstacles.

But it is not as though Japan has never had entrepreneurs.

Many of today's giant companies were founded by brave and calculating young men, people like Akio Morita and Masaru Iwuka who started

The country hopes that kindling an entrepreneurial spirit will help pull it out of its slump.

making tape recorders and transistor radios in an enterprise that became Sony Corporation.

Konosuke Matsushita started making electric sockets with his wife and her brother and turned the company into the powerhouse that is Matsushita Electric Industrial Company. Soichiro Honda, who hooked an engine to a bicycle to make Japan's first motorcycle, built his company into Honda Motor Company.

But these days, corporate life is so comfortable that risk-taking is an alien idea.

Lifetime employment still lingers, even after all the havoc wrought by the 90's.

Companies often offer dating services and discounts for big-ticket purchases. Some help out with family events, such as bringing a new baby into the world or burying a parent. A number of companies even have a graveyard for employees.

All these benefits make a company

as hard to leave as a warm bed on a cold morning.

In the marriage market, which is still dominated by informal matchmakers, the prize is a young man who works for a large company. Entrepreneurs are a distinct second best.

The Japanese still regard individualism with a good deal of suspicion — the word for it, *kojin shugi*, is sometimes used pejoratively because it connotes selfishness.

Selflessness First

That explains why Akio Yokoi, who invented the small electronic pet called the Tamagotchi, did not publicly claim credit when it became a worldwide sensation last year. He remained virtually silent for nearly a year, letting credit to go to a woman who worked at Bandai Company where the palm-size toys are manufactured.

"In Japan, we have a village society, so if someone makes a lot of money, he is alienated," said Mr. Yokoi. "There is this atmosphere that everybody should be in something together. Japanese society does not openly hail individual success."

Scholars partly attribute the problem to the education system, with its rigid hierarchy and emphasis on memorization.

Such an approach has made the society more attuned to productive, disciplined assembly lines than to more creative activities, said Masaru Yoshitomi, a prominent economist at the LTCB Research Institute.

"The paradigm has been changing," said Mr. Yoshitomi.

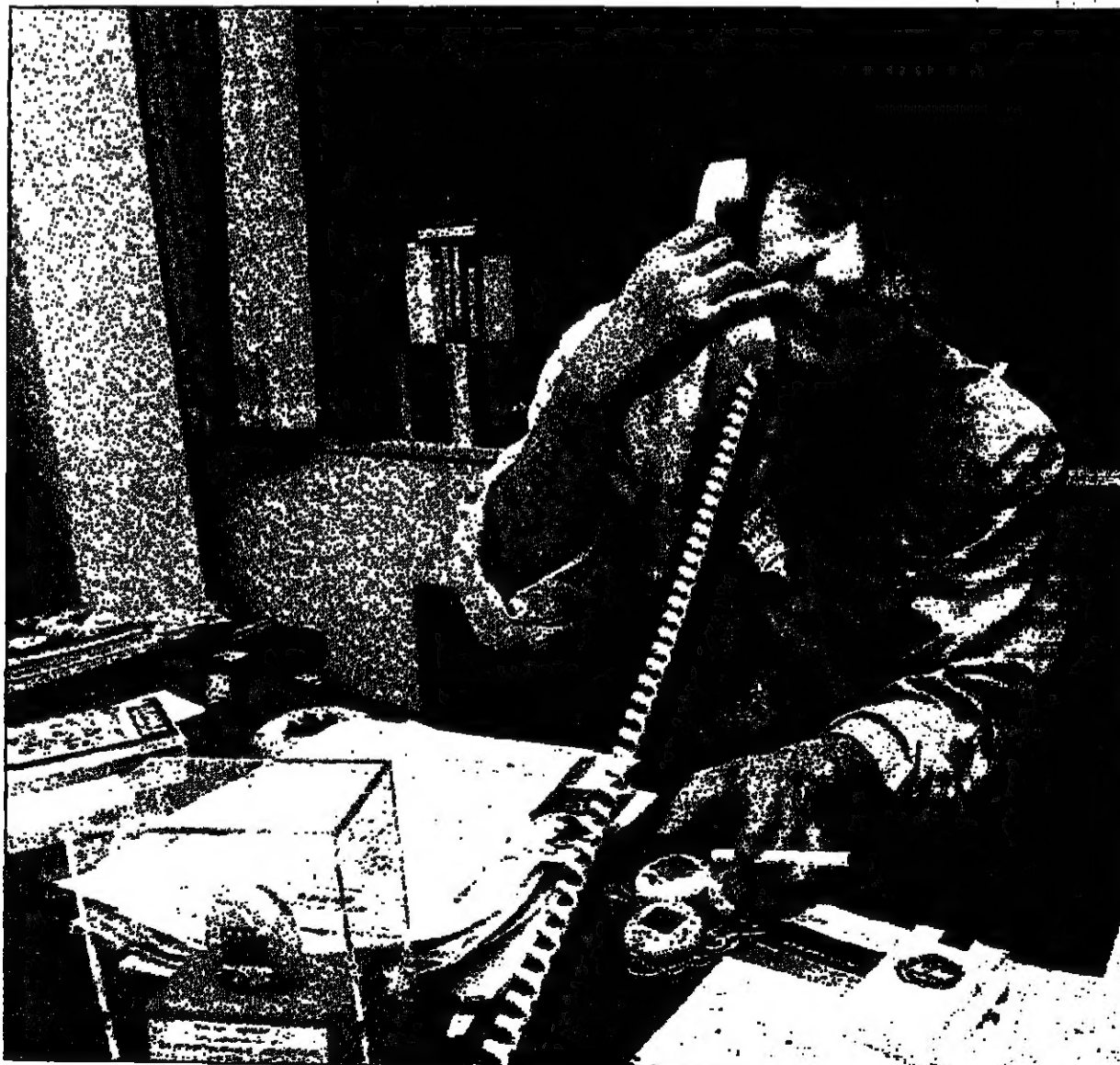
In the 1970's, the focus was on factory workers, he said, and people needed good basic skills and Japan thrived.

Upstarts

Now, the need is for software engineers, and Japan lags.

Besides creativity, entrepreneurship also needs a system of venture capital to finance companies so that they can expand.

Japan has almost no true venture capital funds, or a system of venture capital. Banks are loath to lend to upstarts, high taxes discourage success and stock market listings are extremely difficult to secure.



Rather than take the credit for inventing the electronic pet, Akio Yokoi remained silent for nearly a year.

The Government has made a start, particularly in setting up programs to encourage new businesses with special loans.

On a broader level, Japan is trying to re-educate its people, starting with kindergartners in hopes of cultivating greater creativity and independent thinking.

Now entrepreneurship has become a buzzword among board directors, salaried men, Government officials and young students.

Lectures, seminars and books abound, all of them offering step-by-step guidance on how to become an entrepreneur.

The stature of the handful of new entrepreneurs, like Masayoshi Son, who began distributing software and then bought high-technology companies here and in America, has been rising within the business community.

But ultimately, some scholars say, a fundamental shift is needed since

Japan's capitalism differs from that of the United States and tends to be less friendly to small start-ups.

"For entrepreneurship to work, you have to have a free market, one where the strong win and the weak lose," said Daizaburo Hashizume, a sociologist at Tokyo Institute of Technology.

"With this kind of market, old companies disappear and new companies rise. But there is no such free market in Japan."

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The Nation

The Dark Side of Optimism

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

ONE of the things that is supposed to be so wonderful about the economic expansion of the 1990's is that it has made people feel so good about themselves. Remember the pitiful, helpless American giant of the 1980's, with its butterfingers, inept work force? That is not the national self-image anymore. Now America's triumphant economy breeds the sort of optimism that even has some people saying there can't be hard times again.

But optimism has its dark side. The very confidence that helps lift the economy also breeds excesses — in stock prices, home sales, employment growth and consumer debt — that can make the next downturn sharper than it otherwise might have been. And when optimism gives way suddenly to pessimism, the alarm and worry that accompany the abrupt transition can make people too cautious. Like penitents, they pass up legitimate opportunities to spend, borrow and invest. That can prolong a downturn.

This manic-depressive pattern is clearly described in economic theory. There is even a rule-of-thumb calculation. During the manic stage, people spend 5 cents of every dollar of new wealth that falls into their hands as a result of, say, rising stock prices. But when the downturn comes and pessimism sets in, people cut back their spending by more than 5 cents for every dollar of wealth that disappears. "The behavior is not symmetric," said Stephen S. Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Company.

Still, most Americans appear to be aware that they are in a manic stage. That is evident in public opinion polls. And everyone seems to nod in agreement when Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve,

says that stock prices may have been driven up by irrational exuberance and that the nation's lenders, in their optimism, may have become "too complacent about evaluating repayment risks."

But the optimism is tenacious. It expresses itself in the soothing belief that the seven-year economic expansion will continue for at least another year, and probably longer. Sure, there will be a downturn, but off in the future, and even then not a very severe one.

"People keep telling themselves, and others, that next year won't be so good, but they don't expect it to be a down year, either," said Richard T. Curtin, director of Consumer Surveys at the University of Michigan. "Half of the people we survey think the economic expansion will last another five years. They even shrug off Asia."

What Goes Up . . .

In that frame of mind, optimism breeds trouble. Dips in the stock market become opportunities to buy more stock and push up prices further, although corporate profits no longer seem to be growing quickly enough to justify a rising market. Indeed, American households have more of their accumulated wealth invested in stocks than at any time since World War II.

A similar hubris prevailed in the late 60's and early 70's, when financing both the Vietnam War and President Johnson's social programs seemed possible.

That confidence also drove up stock prices, and when the downfall finally came — along with the oil embargo — the Dow Jones Industrial average lost nearly 40 percent of its value over two years. Not since the Depression had there been such a plunge. The higher stocks went, the further they fell, and the more they fell, the more damage the market inflicted on the economy, which went

through a severe recession in the mid-70's. "People don't know the dangers of their optimism," said Barton Briggs, chief investment strategist at Morgan Stanley.

In the current euphoria, debt also seems unthreatening to many Americans. Jobs and income will be there to cover installment payments, the thinking goes, or stock can be sold to pay debt. While corporate America has not borrowed all that much (healthy profits in the last few years have generated sufficient spending money), individual Americans are big debtors today. Consumer debt, run up mainly on credit cards, has risen to an unusually high 21 percent of the income available to pay it off.

In their optimism, people "may shrink the margins of safety that they otherwise might maintain," said Lawrence Meyer, a Federal Reserve Board governor. "Liquid assets — cash — are a cushion in a downturn, and if you eliminate that cushion, the downturn is harder."

Homeowners increasingly take out mortgages equal to more than 90 percent of the selling price of their homes, and often more than a home's entire value. Banks and other mortgage lenders, caught up in the optimism, encourage the borrowing. After all, home prices are rising in every region of the country for the first time in years.

A downturn in the economy, and a drop in home prices, would suddenly expose both borrowers and lenders to much greater risk. Homes could no longer be sold by either party for enough to repay the loans, adding to the downward pressure on home prices — particularly if an owner loses a job or fails to get an expected bonus and defaults on the loan.

"You would expect mortgage delinquency rates to trend down in good economic times," said David Lereah, chief economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association. "But they are hovering a little above normal, and that is worrisome."

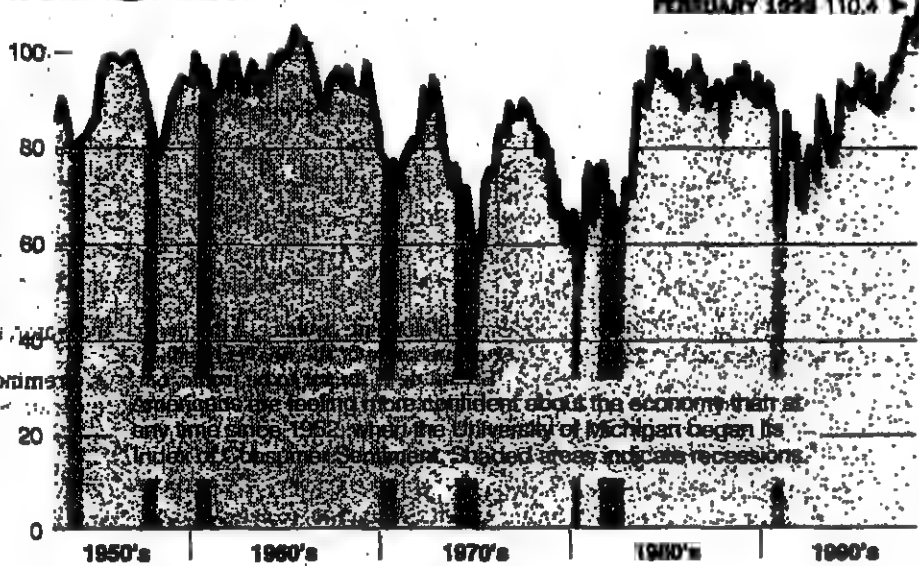
Valuable Lessons

Debt troubles in general are worrisome in the midst of so much optimism. Beyond mortgage delinquencies, personal bankruptcies are at an all-time high, suggesting that many people are quietly hard pressed even without a downturn.

That injection of realism helps explain why Mr. Curtin at the University of Michigan and Daniel Yankelevich at DYG Inc., another public opinion pollster, argue that the worst may not come to pass. Sure, there will be a downturn, they say — most likely triggered by some outside, unexpected event, like a war, an oil shock, a major corporate bankruptcy or the Asian crisis. But the national optimism is probably not so out of touch with reality as to make a downturn worse.

"My position has been that the unrealistic euphoria of the late 1980's won't happen again and won't do us in," Mr. Yankelevich said. "People have seen too many ups and downs. With all their optimism, they are more realistic today about living in a dangerous world."

Feeling Flush



Source: Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

The New York Times

Philosophers See Gold in Therapy

Continued From Page 9

tant of daily life. "Typical clients," he said, are "refugees from psychotherapy," some seeking deeper truths and others just looking for a better way to deal with depression and anxiety.

"What we're suggesting is, if you can be referred by your H.M.O. to a psychologist or a psychiatrist, you should be able to be referred to a philosopher, too," said Dr. Mariniot, who is the president of the American Philosophical Practitioners Association, which has several hundred members. The group has drafted licensing criteria and is leading a state-by-state drive for certification. The most notable success so far is a bill making its way through the New York State Assembly that would establish a board to license philosopher practitioners, and thus propel their campaign to qualify for insurance reimbursement.

Anxious Psychiatrists

With health maintenance organizations already cutting back on coverage for traditional mental health care, some psychiatrists and psychologists naturally react with a mixture of anxiety and denial to any suggestion of sharing the market.

Dorothy Cantor, a clinical psychologist and former president of the American Psychological Association, dismissed the idea that "philosophical counseling, or whatever the heck they're calling it," has a legitimate claim on dealing with "something as delicate as a person's mental health." Philosophers who consider themselves mental health therapists, she said, suffer from a "naïve assumption" that purely intellectual discourse can address personal problems that are intractably emotional and sometimes severely debilitating.

"They totally ignore the role of the unconscious," said Dr. Cantor. For patients who need psychological help, she added, "Plato isn't going to solve their problems."

Psychologists, she said, need to make a better effort "to educate the public as to what they should be looking for — well-trained doctoral-level providers" who are licensed in therapies subject to stringent professional review. "Imagine peer review by philosophers," she said.

Dr. Mariniot conceded that his more scientifically grounded colleagues chuckle at the idea of philosopher therapists.

"People think of a philosopher as someone you wouldn't send out for a loaf of bread," he said. "In fact, a lot of my colleagues, if I sent them out for a loaf of bread, might come back with a quart of milk or with an essay about why they spent the afternoon walking around aimlessly." But he said philosopher practitioners have adopted uniform standards and peer review procedures. In New York, State Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr., a Bronx Democrat who has an interest in philosophy, is sponsoring the bill pushed by the philosophers to authorize state certification.

Philosopher practitioners usually have academic doctorates, Dr. Mariniot said, and are trained to refer people with serious mental disorders to the appropriate professionals. "You don't want to try to treat severe personality disorders with Sartre," he said. But he added, "If somebody comes to me trying to reinvent Nietzschean morality, struggling to transcend good and evil, we can have a dialogue and I can say, 'Hey, that's very interesting. This is something Nietzsche thought an awful lot about.' Ultimately, they won't feel lost or isolated. They can explore and address their dilemma through the long history of thought, rather than through Prozac, for example."

Harriet Chamberlain, a philosopher practitioner in Berkeley, Calif., suggested that clients may find it appealing that there is no stigma attached to counseling on philosophy. Clients are driven, she said, by "normal weaknesses" over job-related stresses, concerns over long-range goals, relationships and general "existential anxieties" that are intensifying in an increasingly complex world.

White Coats and Sandals

Dr. Mariniot said that philosophical counseling rejects psychotherapy's "medical" approach, which considers emotional distress to be a disease, in favor of a humanistic approach that stresses dialogue and self-reflection. "We are not like the guys in white coats," he said.

"What do they wear, sandals?" asked Deborah Chollet, vice president of a health care group called Alpha Center, which does medical insurance research. She said employers and legislators can be overwhelmed by wide public support that marketing-savvy proponents of alternative therapies can muster.

Philosophers are not the only alternative

therapists lining up for a piece of the health-care spending dollar. Some chiropractors want to expand their uses of alternative therapies and are lobbying hard to expand coverage for chiropractic treatment to include a variety of ailments, like depression. Another initiative is coming from a movement called personal coaching, which includes thousands of therapists licensed only by the movement. They use New Age motivational and self-help techniques to counsel clients, who pay as much as \$500 a session.

It is crucial to require proponents for an alternate therapy to "prove that it is a demonstrably cost-effective treatment," Dr. Chollet said. In states that have put those kinds of requirements in place, she added, there has been a dramatic reduction in new mandates requiring health insurers to cover alternate treatments.

The philosopher practitioner movement is working to "accommodate itself to the realities of insurance" in the American health-care market, said Keith Burkum, the chairman of the philosophy department at Felician College, a small Catholic liberal arts college in New Jersey that recruited Dr. Mariniot to teach a course to train philosopher practitioners who sought certification by his organization. So far, Dr. Burkum added, "The track record for the profession is primarily in Europe, but it's coming on strong here. I don't want to pick a fight with psychologists, but in this society psychoanalysis is in deep trouble." Several hundred philosophers practice full time in Holland and in Germany, and a smaller number practice in Israel.

But maybe accommodations can be made, said Donald K. Freedheim, a professor of psychology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and the author of "The History of Psychotherapy: A Century of Change," published by the American Psychological Association in 1992.

Given the tightening of insurance spending on psychotherapy, philosophers might be able to come into the mental health industry test as certified "gatekeepers," under the strict supervision of psychologists or psychiatrists, he suggested. They could refer cases that need "a more sophisticated, comprehensive approach" to psychologists while handling the simpler counseling cases themselves at a lower cost, he said.

"Actually, 80 percent of the counseling that is done now could be done by them," said Professor Freedheim.



The Space Needle in Seattle: Real people need real weather.

Gray Matters

Darling, It's Better Up Where It's Wet

By TIMOTHY EGAN

IN the midst of California's biblical downpour last month, The San Francisco Chronicle dispatched a reporter to Seattle to figure out how people here live with the wet, the gloom — the horror! — of perpetual precipitation.

The meteorological anthropologist discovered, somewhat to his astonishment, that Seattleites wash their cars, go to parties, play soccer and generally shrug off whatever is missing from the sky. What's more, the natives do not use umbrellas, the reporter found. Tourists use umbrellas.

Seattle is to rain what New York is to jaywalking, or used to be until Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani decided to try to make his town more like this one, where lone pedestrians wait for the light to change in a gale at 2 A.M.

Rain is a signature. "O! How horrible is the day," Lewis and Clark wrote of a typical winter afternoon on the Northwest coast in 1806. Tom Robbins, a Northwest novelist who has come up with as many ways to describe rain as Eskimos have to describe snow, once put it this way: "The day was rumpled and dreary. It looked like Edgar Allan Poe's pajamas."

Part of the Package

But people here are proprietary about the weather. And when it rains in great, news-making deluges elsewhere while mere anonymous drizzle coats the Rain City, people here can feel neglected.

When asked about the weather — and they always are — Seattleites trot out two lines of thought: one, that it does not really rain very much here; and two, that it does, but nobody is greatly bothered by it, unlike those pathetic wimps in other cities.

The statistics back up the first argument. Seattle receives 38 inches of rain a year on average — less than every major East Coast city. And nearly half of Seattle's rain falls during November, December and January. The wettest year on record, 1950, saw 53.14 inches of rain, still below the annual average for New Orleans and Miami. Gullywashers are rare. It is usually bone dry from July through September.

So what's the big deal? The moisture does not really fall as much as it lingers, the skies ever-pregnant with gray. Seattle has 158 days with at least some trace amounts of rain, more than virtually every East Coast city, including New York, which averages 119 days with some moisture, and just under 43 inches a year.

Play Misty for Me

The most positive spin on the rain comes from people who have tried to quantify things like drizzle. In his new book on Northwest weather, "Rains All the Time" (Sasquatch Publishing), David Laskin recounts how Phil Church, a retired professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington, tried to debunk Seattle rain. Drizzle, the professor noted, makes up 72

percent of the city's precipitation. "It's not heavy rain — greater than 0.16 inch a day — is a mere 1.5 percent of the water," he said. "Because of the preponderance of drizzle intensities, one might truthfully say 'rarely rains' in Seattle."

Okay, so how did Seattle become the city in National Basketball Association lore for having a rain-out indoors? A rain-out, demonstrating the penetrating power of the drizzle. And where did the term "rainforest" come from? It appears as a balmy about-face from days in a Seattle forecast, come from? From a place with a forecast on auto-pilot: the ubiquitous "rain turning to showers."

Mood Music

What Seattle has is mood weather, and writers love it. There is a grand acceptance of seasonal affective disorder, SAD, a malady brought on by light deprivation during the dark Northwest winter. Contrary to popular belief, suicide is not high. The desert region encompassing Nevada, Utah and Arizona has a higher suicide rate than the Pacific Northwest.

As for the wimpiness factor, it is true that Seattleites revel in stories of people elsewhere being afraid of rain. No dinner party of late has passed without stories about

social events being canceled in Los Angeles because of rain threats, or of how nervous news crews in California go live to the radio to record the simple falling of water.

El Niño, the warming of the Pacific that has become the all-purpose explanation for anything remotely odd this year, has brought out the Schadenfreude of Seattleites. The tut-tutting of a webfoot's view of the Pacific is more productive making airport food, coffee and new coffee drinks here, and the goes, because rain is linked to the weather ethic. Real people need real weather for character, or something like that.

Californians, by contrast, are "sun-baked barbarians," in the words of Emmet Watson, the dean of Seattle newspaper columnists. And if they do not see the sun for 30 consecutive days, well, try 40 days, a possibility on the Olympic foothills of Washington state, known for 200 inches of annual precipitation and the site of the only rain forest in the lower 48 states.

To be fair, San Francisco has been hit by 38.61 inches of rain since last July — nearly double the amount in a normal year — and Los Angeles has received 22.43 inches, 50 percent above the usual average. But they know this is temporary.

In Seattle, if it isn't raining right now, it soon will be. Most people would have it no other way.

The World

Hero to U.S., Yawn to Russia

By MICHAEL R. GORDON

WHEN Russia's Prime Minister summed up his accomplishments for the past five years, he was a little weak on what former President George Bush liked to call the vision thing.

"If one considers what could have been done, and then what we did do over this long time, one can conclude that something was done," Viktor S. Chernomyrdin said.

This week the steady but uninspiring Mr. Chernomyrdin is to meet in Washington with Vice President Al Gore to discuss everything from foreign investment to arms control. But will Mr. Gore be meeting Russia's future president, as many American policymakers hope, or simply a gray and unelectable political survivor?

From Mikhail Gorbachev to Boris N. Yeltsin, the United States has a long history of pinning its hopes on Russian leaders even after their authority has begun to wane.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's power is growing. But Russia's second most important official looks very different through the prism of Washington politics than he does in Moscow. The Clinton Administration sees Mr. Chernomyrdin as a stabilizing figure to whom Washington can turn to smooth over the rough patches in the American-Russian relationship. He may not always deliver the answers Washington wants, but he is always there to take the call.

"He has been a steady Eddie," a senior Clinton Administration official said. "He has not been an outspoken proponent of reform but a lot of reform has moved forward under his authority. He has learned and grown a great deal."

A C-plus Student

But where Americans see stability, Russian reformers see stagnation. In Moscow, Mr. Chernomyrdin is viewed as a "C-plus" student whose principal talent is his ability to get along with seemingly everyone while avoiding tough decisions.

The Communists like him because he is amenable to compromise, even if it means agreeing to a budget that vastly exceeds any credible projection of revenue. Mr. Yeltsin

likes him because he has demonstrated his loyalty and is not a political threat.

Russia's bankers and energy barons have embraced him as their best hope of retaining their inside connections after Mr. Yeltsin leaves the scene.

"Chernomyrdin has been practically selected by the oligarchy as a successor to Yeltsin," said Andrei Piontkovsky, a Russian political analyst. "They choose him because he is ready to insure the status quo, the same incestuous relationship between power and money."

If Mr. Chernomyrdin can get along with Communists as well as energy barons, it is because he has been both. The son of a truck driver, the 59-year-old Mr. Chernomyrdin began as a compressor operator in central Russia.

Washington sees a Prime Minister through a prism of wishful thinking.

Later, he worked for the local Communist Party in the city of Orsk, and became the minister of the Soviet gas industry in 1985. When the ministry was transformed into Gazprom, the huge and semi-privatized natural gas monopoly, Mr. Chernomyrdin became its first chairman.

His big political break came in 1992 when Yegor T. Gaidar, the pro-capitalist reformer, was ousted as prime minister. Mr. Chernomyrdin had assailed the "romantic" infatuation with the free market. But as a pragmatist, he now talks about the need for economic reform.

Because of his long connection to Gazprom, he is commonly viewed as one of Russia's wealthiest men. Mr. Chernomyrdin has reported an annual income of about \$7,800, reflecting his annual salary, and an estate worth about \$50,000, but no securities or shares in Gazprom, an income declaration virtually nobody in Russia takes at face value.

In a sense, Russia has had a preview of a

Chernomyrdin Government. Mr. Yeltsin's drinking and poor health have meant that there have been long periods when Mr. Chernomyrdin has been the dominant figure, and when Mr. Chernomyrdin has held the reins, Russia has tended to drift. Mr. Chernomyrdin, however, is by no means the worst alternative. He showed flashes of conscience in resisting the war in Chechnya and is committed to constructive relations with the West.

Cozy With the Money Barons

Still, one of Russia's greatest challenges is to break the grip that the small cluster of financiers and industrialists have on the economy. And few think Mr. Chernomyrdin is up to it. If he decides to run in the 2000 election, he has some political strengths. For want of an alternative, much of Russia's business elite seem prepared to back him if Mr. Yeltsin does not run.

And Mr. Chernomyrdin has been cozying up to the financial barons and potential campaign contributors. When he blessed the merger that created Russia's largest oil company, he urged Russian companies to concentrate on competing with foreign interests abroad instead of each other at home, comments that did not fit easily with his boilerplate rhetoric about building a market economy.

Mr. Chernomyrdin has also proved himself a resilient bureaucratic infighter. He recently expanded his authority at the expense of Anatoly B. Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, the most reform-minded senior officials in the Yeltsin Government. They were left with such politically thankless tasks as compelling Russians to pay their taxes and phasing out housing subsidies.

What Mr. Chernomyrdin, however, has still not been able to do is make himself popular with the voters. His poll ratings are so low that the Russian media that support him tend not to report them.

The Prime Minister is constantly being ridiculed for his mixed metaphors, fractured grammatical constructions and gross insults to the Russian language.

It was Mr. Chernomyrdin who defended the gas and electrical monopolies as "the backbone of Russia's economy" and then added pointedly he would "defend this backbone as the pupil of an eye."

He appears to be calculating that the



Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin greets Vice President Al Gore in Moscow.

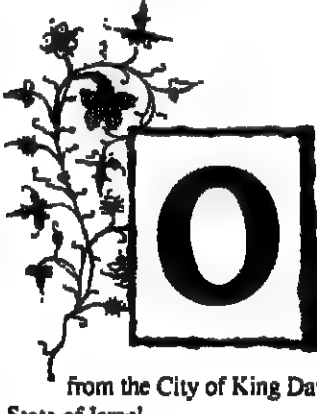
Kremlin political machine and the financiers' money will enable him to succeed, much as it helped Mr. Yeltsin reverse his disastrous ratings in the 1996 election. But Mr. Yeltsin had a spirit, just for combat and even charisma that Mr. Chernomyrdin lacks.

To boost his image, Mr. Chernomyrdin is launching a new show on the RTR state television channel on which he will respond to

questions from the public. But he is such a wooden speaker that it's not clear whether this will help or hurt his prospects.

"Chernomyrdin will be answering citizens' questions live on TV," quipped the newspaper *Russky Telegraph*. "Is this the first sign of the upcoming presidential election? Or maybe Yeltsin simply wants to ruin the Prime Minister's chances?"

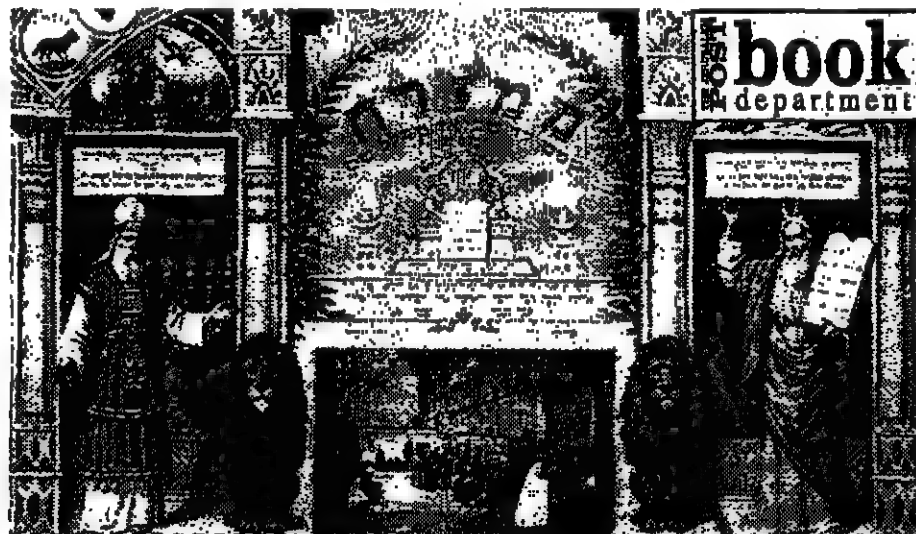
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Blood Without Bombs

Continued From Page 9

if it is the world's biggest Muslim nation and nearly 10 times more populous than Iraq. And Mr. Suharto isn't hoarding anthrax or threatening to invade Australia.

Part of the answer is that Indonesia is a major test of the world's ability to fight the kind of virulent economic contagion that took the world by surprise last fall. Other countries have largely abided by the I.M.F.'s conditions even if they thought parts were Draconian or, as many economists argue, just wrong-headed. Mr. Suharto is the first to fight back.

So the Administration is torn. On the one hand, Mr. Rubin and others worry that if Mr. Suharto is allowed to defy the I.M.F., other nations around the world will do the same. It is a parallel argument to the one heard last month about Iraq.

Credibility at Stake

"In both situations you have cases where establishing credibility is very important," said an Administration official who has been shuttling from Iraq meetings to Indonesia meetings. If the I.M.F. loses this test of wills, he argued, it is virtually out of business; its bailout money would end up being wasted. In the Treasury, this is known as the rat-hole problem, as in the place where money is poured and lost.

But in the case of Indonesia, fiscal prudence is coming into direct conflict with the risk of national upheaval. Many believe Mr. Suharto is using the specter of more civil unrest to keep the I.M.F. money flowing on his terms.

The State Department is haunted by the knowledge that as Mr. Suharto came to power 32 years ago, after a coup attempt that turned into an anti-Communist witch hunt, half a million Indonesians died, many at the hands of the military. No one is predicting a replay. Still, a stable Indonesia is as critical to regional stability in Asia as a contained Iraq is to a peaceful Middle East. That's why the Administration prefers to spar with the authoritarian they know rather than a new general they never met.

But now America has to choose between giving Mr. Suharto a pass on reform or looking, again, like the bully of Asia. The dilemma irks Mr. Kissinger. "Why is it that the United States has to go around the world beating up on everyone to reform?" he asked. "Where are the Europeans? Where is Japan?"

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ECONOMY

America's Uncertain Ride on the Treadmill Economy

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

THE caller insisted that a telephone number must exist for the Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Voorhees, N.J. He had called there once, and now he demanded that Sandra Singh find the number. His voice rose in anger when she said that only one New Jersey listing for Kimberly-Clark popped up on her computer screen — in the town of Spotswood, not Voorhees. "Perhaps they moved," Ms. Singh offered. Only gradually did he give in, finally accepting the Spotswood number she proffered so amiably.

The call had lasted three minutes, an eternity in the world of telephone directory assistance, with its bent toward electronic voices and 10-second automated responses. But in corporate America, where the talk everywhere is of greater productivity — producing more, faster, without adding human labor — the AT&T Corporation has gone in the opposite direction, adding dozens of directory-assistance operators like Ms. Singh, who works at a new operator center here. She is trained to be patient with customers, so they won't hang up in anger and jump to a competitor.

"Our new directory assistance service has less to do with traditional notions of productivity than it does with using a personalized service to

create a competitive advantage," said Howard McNally, AT&T's vice president for consumer product management.

The AT&T story is showing up in various guises at many companies. While productivity may be a national goal, conflicting pressures are getting in the way, pushing companies to add thousands of hours of labor as they fight to hang onto increasingly demanding and flighty customers.

The effect is a frustratingly busy economy — call it the Treadmill Economy — that has been creating more than 300,000 new jobs a month. It is an economy that adds workers rather than operate more efficiently. And while that keeps unemployment low, it is greater productivity that makes possible higher raises and higher living standards.

"What we are beginning to recognize," said Paul David, an economic historian at Stanford University, "is that companies are increasingly embracing strategies that pay off in added revenue and higher profits for individual companies, but not necessarily in greater productivity for the nation."

That conclusion runs counter to a view that has become popular over the last two years among many experts — including, at times, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve. They have proclaimed a new era of rising productivity, in which a computer-equipped nation is

returning to the rapid rate of improvement of earlier generations.

The trouble is that the new era fails to show up in the Government's productivity data, which measure how much national income, or output, is generated from an average hour of work, or input. Optimists say that the statistics are wrong, or that they have not yet caught up to the improvement taking place, or that they fail to reflect higher quality built into products and services.

But the experiences of American companies like AT&T suggest that the statistics are closer to the truth than the optimism is. Considerable amounts of labor are apparently going into design, advertising and marketing — to make one pair of sneakers, for example, or one telephone directory system seem different from another, but without increasing the total output of sneakers or of responses to requests for directory assistance. As for quality, the improvements are much less substantial than the optimists claim.

The question of whether a new era is near is of more than academic interest. In any country, productivity is the main road to a rising standard of living. Only when a nation's workers produce more in a given amount of time can hourly or weekly or annual wages rise across the board. Rising output from the same amount of labor can also free workers and capital for other endeavors that a society deems desirable — more day care for children, for example; the development of supersonic jets; more schools and teachers, or 100-mile-an-hour commuter trains.

But the country's standard of living, in fact, has not been rising in any significant way. Median household income is very much in line with the meager increases in productivity over the last quarter-century — a prolonged slowdown unprecedented in the American experience. That helps explain the feeling expressed by many people — particularly those whose incomes are not linked to the rise in the stock market — that they are working harder and longer with no appreciable sense that their wealth is growing.

The new-era talk has been circulating only in the last two years, as the economy has boomed and as wages have begun to improve. Profits have also done well in the last couple of years — another bit of evidence, at least in the optimists' eyes, that productivity is improving. There has, in fact, been an upward spurt in productivity in the last year, but the average annual increase in the 1990's is only 1.2 percent, almost unchanged from the 70's and 80's. For 100 years until the early 70's — America's industrial heyday — productivity rose at an average annual rate of over 2 percent.

Critics of the new-era thesis note that a corporation can raise profitability, at least for awhile, without improving productivity. It can invest more in marketing and innovation, for example, to make a product or service seem different, and better, than a competitor's. The issue, they say, isn't that the growing service sector is less efficient than manufacturing or harder to measure, as some argue in explaining the nation's poor productivity performance. Rather, the critics say, the drag on productivity comes from the great quantities of labor that are expended, in both manufacturing and the service sector, to hold on to customers or to lure them away from other companies.

Now, Four Ways to Get a Phone Number

That is what is happening at AT&T. Even as it makes a point of paring its work force, it adds other workers — either on its own payroll or through outsourcing — to stave off new challenges to its bread-and-butter long-distance phone service.

Ms. Singh is one of the additions. Dial zero twice from most telephones, and people like Ms. Singh come on the line. She is a 35-year-old divorced mother of four who joined AT&T when the company opened a directory-assistance center last May in a state former department store here. The store had flourished when



While many phone companies turn to automation, AT&T pays workers at its Scranton, Pa., directory-assistance center to be polite and patient.

and railroad center; now the city is riddled with unemployment and low wages.

"What we are betting is that consumers will be so captivated by our new 'Double 00' service that they cannot imagine dealing with our competitors," said Mark Siegel, an AT&T spokesman.

Ms. Singh and her colleagues, who earn \$8.20 an hour, are paid to be pleasant and patient. Ask one to list the names and phone numbers of all the delicatessens on Sixth Avenue in Manhattan and she will go patiently through 30 delis that come up on the screen before the caller has had enough.

"You get a warm feeling from these conversations," Ms. Singh said. "You don't come away from the job feeling brain-dead."

But Ms. Singh's role represents a considerable deterioration in productivity. Once, AT&T funneled requests for directory assistance to the Bell companies that provide phone service in each region of the country. Because the Bell companies actually operate the phones, they also have the most up-to-date information. For years, national directory assistance consisted of this single, linked system, orchestrated by AT&T.

But then the regional Bell companies began jockeying to enter long-distance phone service in competition with AT&T. And in 1995, AT&T decided that it no longer wanted to rely on potential competitors for national directory assistance.

That was when the proliferation in manpower began. Call 411 today, and you still reach a local operator. (In some cities, like Denver or Tampa, Fla., local operators for the first time will provide long-distance numbers, too.) A second layer of manpower kicks in when an AT&T customer dials 555-1212 preceded by an area code. No longer does an operator from a Bell company respond. Instead, the voice is that of a recently hired AT&T operator, one of more than 4,000 working for the company or for a contractor, Excell Agent Services, based in Phoenix.

Ms. Singh represents still another layer of new workers, a small but growing group of elite operators stationed in Scranton and in another recently opened AT&T center in Augusta, Ga. Their job is to offer the extra courtesy and patience not available at 555-1212, with its electronic voices and faster pace.

And, finally, a fourth layer of workers has sprung up: the hundreds of people who scramble to put together new data bases of telephone numbers, now that the Bell companies no longer make their numbers available through the cooperative system that AT&T once organized.

Excell is AT&T's data-base supplier. It draws from published phone books, the Internet, postal and real estate records, mail-order houses and a cottage industry that has mushroomed to supply phone companies with phone numbers.

"I would say that 500 people are probably employed collecting numbers who would not be necessary if the regional Bell companies were still making their numbers available," said Dan Evansoff, chief executive of Excell. The Bells offer their numbers to others, but under terms that AT&T considers unpalatable. Beyond AT&T, the drag on produc-

tivity seems woven into modern American business. Dozens of entrepreneurs, for example, invested thousands of hours to develop 4,000 computer games for the Christmas selling season last year, but fewer than 10 percent actually caught on with customers. In the productivity data, that represented a lot of labor input and not much output.

How Novelty Gnaws At Productivity

The obsession with novelty is also a big consumer of labor. New Balance Inc., the sneaker company, introduces a new, slightly different shoe every 17 weeks, investing thousands of labor hours in the design and marketing of each variation. And inexpensive labor dents productivity at United Parcel Service, which operates a huge package distribution center in Louisville, Ky., that looks like a 19th-century factory, crisscrossed with conveyor belts.

Seven thousand people work at the center, picking packages off the belts, sorting them and loading them into cargo containers for shipment. The work force has doubled in a decade as U.P.S.'s cargo planes bring in more and more packages.

If the Louisville center were to be automated, the work force could be reduced by 15 to 20 percent, said Kenneth E. Shapiro, a company spokesman. Until now, the high cost of automating the center could not be justified, Mr. Shapiro said, not in a city where U.P.S.'s wage bill averages only \$11 an hour. For U.P.S., raising productivity — increasing the number of packages that each employee can sort in an hour with the help of equipment — has been less profitable than adding workers. But labor costs keep rising, Mr. Shapiro said, and as a result, U.P.S. announced last week that it would build an \$860 million labor-saving distribution center in Louisville.

The greatest drag on productivity, however, appears to be coming from the huge investment in manpower to develop products and services that are only slightly different from their predecessors, and then to advertise and market these variations. AT&T's national directory service falls into this category. So do New Balance's sneakers. And so, too, do the 401(k) plans managed by the Principal Financial Group, an insurance company based in Des Moines.

Principal administers the 401(k) plans of 37,000 companies with two million participating employees. The contracts are with the companies, but Principal deals directly with each worker. From one point of view, efficiency at Principal is greatly improved, said Steven Hensley, a vice president. Thanks to new software, the 4,000 employees in Principal's pension division have in recent years doubled the amount of work they get done in an hour. But this is offset by the proliferation of tasks and services that Principal requires of its workers to satisfy customers.

"We are returning to a kind of contemporary crafts economy," said Jeffrey Madrick, an author who is writing a book on productivity. "We have shifted from a kind of standard mass-market economy to one that requires more creative input from

its workers."

Mr. Hensley ticks off the labor and the skills involved in Principal's 401(k) services. There are the hours spent reaching new employees at the 37,000 companies, soliciting their enrollment. And the hours invested in a Spanish-language operation, in seminars for retirees and in the installation of a sophisticated system that allows people to see their 401(k) balance sheets on the Internet, at any time, rather than calling an "800" number or waiting for quarterly statements. And finally there are the hours invested by 150 consultants, hired in the last seven years, who give avuncular advice over the phone on taxes, investment, estate planning and the like.

"You don't do this if there is not a payback," Mr. Hensley said. The payback last year was an increase of 4,000 in the number of companies that contract with Principal. But only 2,000 were newly establishing 401(k)s for their workers. The remaining 2,000 already had 401(k) plans and only switched them to Principal from other suppliers.

For Principal, that competitive victory is fine. But in the national productivity statistics, the company's investment in extra hours of work shows up as a labor "input" not entirely offset by a rise in "output," because half the new business is simply a shifting of existing business — existing output — to a new supplier.

Economists argue that the losers in this competition start to downsize, cutting back labor hours no longer needed to serve customers that have switched to Principal. But Mr. Hensley doubts that these cutbacks actually occur. Too many companies try to hold on and make a comeback.

"The marketplace may be forcing out some inefficient suppliers," Mr. Hensley said. "Maybe over the long run there will be a lot of that. But the fact is that we have more competitors today than 10 years ago."

What is true for fund managers is true for manufacturers, too. The Gillette Company finds that it cannot sell the same model of razor for more than three or four years without innovations. "People don't want to pay a premium anymore for aging models," said Edward DeGraan, an executive vice president.

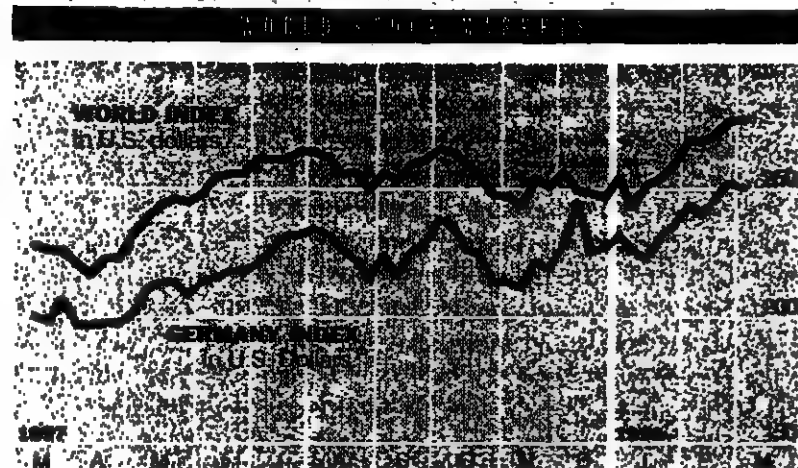
So, in July, Gillette will begin to ship the fourth version since 1985 of its "wet shave" razor — one not yet put on public view but likely to be only marginally different from the last version. That has been the pattern. One feature of the current model, for example, is a set of fins, resembling a miniature Venetian blind, designed to expose more of the facial hair for a cleaner shave. Another feature is a white strip above the twin blades that produces "a highly lubricious chemical that increases glide across the cheeks," Mr. DeGraan said. The strip grew wider and more lubricious from one model to the next.

Gillette spends tens of millions of dollars in the redesign and testing of such innovations, in new or retooled machinery and in advertising and promotion — outlays that show up in the national productivity data as roughly the equivalent of thousands of hours of labor input. In Gillette's case, the total cost of this input has risen to 18 percent of net sales, from 14.4 percent in 1990.

Gillette makes up for much of these costs by finding efficient ways to run its assembly lines. And manufacturing's portion of the company's sales dollar has fallen.

"What we have managed to do is add to the value of the shaving experience," said John F. Bush, another Gillette vice president, "and we get a higher price and a greater profit margin when we do this."

Yet Gillette, a much-admired manufacturer, may not be doing much more than a struggling services company like AT&T to build the nation's income through greater productivity. "When we contrast what is happening today with 1960, we find many hours of labor going into the development of novelty features that are not durable," said Mr. David of Stanford. "There appears to be a greater outlay of labor today in replacing existing products with new ones that are not that much different."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT index is compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

| PERFORMANCE | | IN U.S. DOLLARS | | | | IN LOCAL CURR. | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Country | Index | Week % Chg. | Week Rank | YTD % Chg. | YTD Rank | Index | Week % Chg. | Week Rank | YTD % Chg. |
| Australia | 207.85 | -2.8 | 21 | 3.9 | 20 | 3.77 | 208.49 | 1.1 | |
| Austria | 204.16 | -1.0 | 18 | 8.0 | 18 | 1.87 | 194.34 | 10.0 | |
| Belgium | 263.73 | 0.6 | 10 | 11.5 | 12 | 2.61 | 264.41 | 13.7 | |
| Brazil | 248.48 | 4.6 | 1 | 4.2 | 19 | 1.85 | 517.33 | 5.6 | |
| Britain | 369.50 | -0.2 | 13 | 11.4 | 13 | 2.95 | 334.61 | 7.8 | |
| Canada | 230.70 | 1.5 | 5 | 8.6 | 17 | 1.69 | 237.31 | 11.9 | |
| Denmark | 456.65 | -0.6 | 14 | 2.1 | 22 | 1.36 | 433.66 | 4.1 | |
| Finland | 348.01 | -2.0 | 20 | 24.2 | 3 | 2.20 | 403.70 | 26.8 | |
| France | 269.79 | 1.4 | 8 | 12.7 | 9 | 2.10 | 259.93 | 15.1 | |
| Germany | 250.65 | -0.8 | 15 | 9.3 | 15 | 1.28 | 239.76 | 11.3 | |
| Hong Kong | 342.51 | -5.5 | 24 | -4.1 | 25 | 4.73 | 340.44 | -4.1 | |
| Indonesia | 45.91 | -8.5 | 26 | -30.5 | 29 | 2.23 | 301.35 | 35.3 | |
| Ireland | 480.72 | -1.3 | 18 | 19.7 | 5 | 1.98 | 499.69 | 25.9 | |
| Italy | 141.82 | -4.2 | 2 | 20.5 | 4 | 1.23 | 190.08 | 22.9 | |
| Japan | 104.84 | -0.0 | 12 | 10.0 | 14 | 0.94 | 84.72 | 8.2 | |
| Malaysia | 183.72 | -14.2 | 28 | 17.8 | 7 | 2.48 | 293.58 | 19.1 | |
| Mexico | 1,807.53 | 1.0 | 7 | -10.8 | 27 | 1.49 | 15,101.25 | -5.0 | |
| Netherlands | 462.30 | 0.9 | 9 | 12.8 | 8 | 2.05 | 435.68 | 14.9 | |
| New Zealand | 75.56 | -1.5 | 19 | -1.1 | 23 | 4.71 | 89.32 | -0.8 | |
| Norway | 314.37 | 3.5 | 3 | -1.8 | 24 | 1.94 | 324.95 | 1.7 | |
| Philippines | 93.66 | -3.2 | 22 | 18.1 | 6 | 1.10 | 187.17 | 18.7 | |
| Singapore | 208.12 | -9.1 | 27 | -7.8 | 26 | 1.96 | 157.95 | -9.6 | |
| South Africa | 272.41 | -4.3 | 23 | 2.6 | 21 | 2.90 | 296.57 | 5.1 | |
| Spain | 340.08 | 2.7 | 4 | 25.1 | 2 | 1.80 | 399.46 | 27.3 | |
| Sweden | 524.40 | 0.4 | 11 | 11.7 | 11 | 1.83 | 625.30 | 13.4 | |
| Switzerland | 381.96 | -1.0 | 17 | 12.1 | 10 | 0.96 | 353.19 | 14.6 | |
| Thailand | 30.48 | -6.3 | 25 | -57.8 | 1 | 5.94 | 52.55 | 45.7 | |
| United States | 430.85 | 0.6 | 9 | 8.7 | 16 | 1.47 | 430.85 | 8.7 | |

| COMPOSITE INDICES | | IN U.S. DOLLARS | | | | IN LOCAL CURR. | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|----------|--------|----------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Index | Week % Chg. | Week Rank | YTD % Chg. | YTD Rank | Index | Week % Chg. | Week Rank | YTD % Chg. | YTD Rank |
| Europe | 325.12 | 0.3 | 12.5 | 2.09 | 312.61 | 14.1 | | | |
| Pacific Basin | 114.16 | -1.3 | 7.8 | 1.58 | 93.61 | 6.2 | | | |
| Europe/Pacific | 202.14 | -0.2 | 10.8 | 1.98 | 175.97 | 11.4 | | | |
| World | 277.97 | 0.2 | 9.5 | 1.69 | 254.20 | 9.7 | | | |

Sources: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1998 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

| EXCHANGE RATE | | FRIEDAY | | | | LAST FRIDAY | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|--|--|--|-------------|-------|--------|--|
| Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar | 127.93 | | | | | 128.10 | +1.45 | 121.94 | |
| German marks to the U.S. dollar | 1.8328 | | | | | 1.8148 | +0.99 | 1.7140 | |
| Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar | 1.4178 | | | | | 1.4200 | -0.15 | 1.3694 | |
| U.S. dollars to the British pound | 1.8356 | | | | | 1.8453 | -0.59 | 1.6031 | |

Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

March 2-6: After Earnings Scars, the Dow Recovers on a Strong Jobs Report

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Broad market | Up 0.60% |
| S. & P. 500 index | 1,055.64 |
| Nasdaq | Up 0.28% |
| Dow 30 industrials | 8,589.39 |
| Small capitalization | Up 0.41% |
| Russell 2000 index | 483.72 |

DOMESTIC BONDS

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Treasuries | Down 0.36% |
| Ryan Labs. Total Return | 214.93 |
| Municipals | Down 0.88% |
| Bond Buyer Index | 122.25 |
| Corporates | Down 0.39% |
| Merrill Lynch Master index | 942.79 |

AROUND THE WORLD

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| European stocks | Up 0.32% |
| F.T.-Actuaries Europe | 325.12 |
| Asian stocks | Down 1.25% |
| F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin | 114.16 |
| Gold | Down 1.63% |
| New York cash price | \$295.20 |

Foreign indices are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS

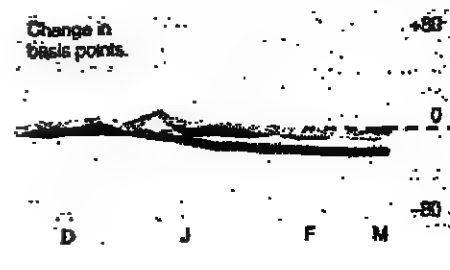
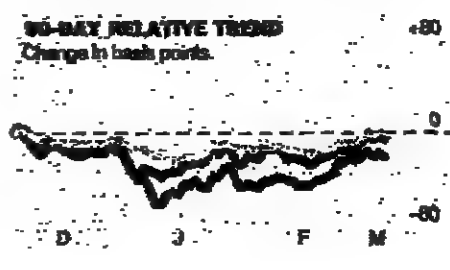
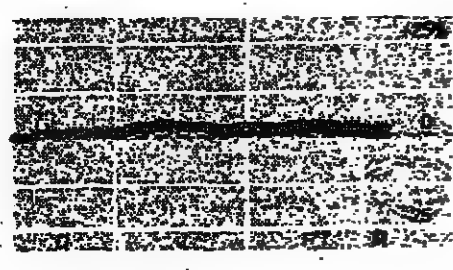
BONDS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Long bonds | 5.02% |
| 30-year Treasuries | Up 10 basis pts. |
| Notes | 5.57% |
| 2-year Treasuries | Up 4 basis pts. |
| Municipals | 5.31% |
| Bond Buyer index | Up 7 basis pts. |

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Money market funds | 5.07% |
| Taxable average | Up 4 basis pts. |
| Bank C.D.'s | 4.98% |
| 1-year small savers | Unchanged |
| Stocks | 1.50% |
| S. & P. 500 dividend yield | Down 2 b.p. |



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, DataStream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

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MARTIN A. NISENBOITZ, President, Electronic Media

The Hunkered Presidency

"I've proved I can take a punch," Bill Clinton said after surviving the bimbo eruption that threatened his candidacy in 1992. Almost exactly six years later, President Clinton is still embroiled in one of the scruffy, self-inflicted scandals that have been a chronic feature of his career. Once again, the boxing metaphor applies. The man can still take a punch. Moreover, the old rope-a-dope is working in his favor. But the rope-a-dope's originator, Muhammad Ali, also demonstrated the flaw of that strategy. It is agonizing to watch and exacts hidden, long-term costs on the winner.

Even so, the rope-a-dope is serving the President's immediate interests. Eight weeks into the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the President's approval ratings are strong. The public is sick of Ms. Lewinsky and susceptible to the White House line that the investigation of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, is driven by partisanship and prurience rather than substantive legal issues. Mr. Starr, in fact, has a list of legal questions that Attorney General Janet Reno has designated as weighty. The allegations include bribery and looting in Arkansas, the misuse of Federal records and employees, perjury and the paying and subordination of witnesses. Individual citizens, even a Congressional impeachment panel, may decide these charges are old or unimportant, but as matters of law, they have standing.

One reason the public does not understand that better is that Mr. Starr has played George Foreman to Mr. Clinton's Ali. That is to say, he was a sucker to get decoyed into slugging away at leaks. The leak debate was invented by the White House as a diversion from the legal substance of any case against Mr. Clinton and as a shelter from the political debate over his fitness as President.

The latter point has nothing to do with whether Mr. Clinton ought to be indicted and everything to do with whether he can be admired. The White House

has tried to create new ground rules for what the public has a right to know in reaching a judgment as to Mr. Clinton's Presidential stature. It has also tried to argue that whatever is not overtly illegal is acceptable governance. It may be right that under normal circumstances the President should not be asked about non-felonious behavior behind the closed doors of the Oval Office study. But it is certainly a matter of legitimate curiosity when the American Ambassador to the United Nations meets at his home with an obscure Pentagon employee in carrying out a request to help her find a better job. It is also a matter of legitimate public — and grand jury — interest when Vernon Jordan says that he had undertaken his own employment campaign at the urging of the President's secretary and kept the President himself informed of his efforts.

Mr. Clinton once said he could and would explain everything, including presumably his Administration's surprising passion for advancing Ms. Lewinsky's career. But that promise was consumed under the tactical demands of rope-a-dope. The present plan is to hang on, let people think what they must of Mr. Clinton and aggressively impugn the integrity of anyone who suggests that this President conducts himself in odd and furtive ways.

In this regard, party affiliation seems to influence how much people can stomach. According to an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 45 percent of Democrats, 31 percent of independents and 10 percent of Republicans give Mr. Clinton's character a high rating. Those numbers may be a tribute to party loyalty, but they seem to us a low foundation from which to build a historical record. They also suggest that even when Americans are revolted or tuned out, they are not so easy to fool on issues of character.

Unified Pressure on Kosovo

Bosnia collapsed in upon itself, but the violence in Kosovo could ignite the Balkans beyond the former Yugoslavia. The guerrilla terrorism and state massacres of the past week are finally forcing American and European officials to take the danger seriously. When top diplomats from the United States and five European nations meet in London tomorrow, they should affirm Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's strong warning yesterday to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to stop the killings of Kosovo's Albanians.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia with a population that is 90 percent ethnic Albanian. Until Mr. Milosevic came to power in Yugoslavia in 1989, Kosovo governed itself. Since then, its Albanians have lived in a police state, trying unsuccessfully to win their rights largely through nonviolent means. Lately, a small group calling itself the Kosovo Liberation Army has turned to bombings and killings. Serbian forces have responded by stepping up their own terror and murdering civilians.

If violence increases, Kosovo's conflict could spread to neighboring Macedonia, which has an Albanian minority. Since many of Macedonia's neighbors have territorial claims on it, chaos in Macedonia could encourage Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey to join a war.

Leaders in Washington and Europe have been talking about the danger for years. But even the Clinton Administration, which has contributed the most to maintain the peace, is not doing enough. Until Ms. Albright's comments yesterday, Washington had refrained from reiterating its strong warn-

ings about the costs of Serbian military intervention in Kosovo. Negotiations have been left largely in the care of well-intentioned citizens' groups. But the Kosovo Albanians need Washington's help to insure that they are taken seriously.

The international community should remind the Kosovo Albanians that the world will not undermine the goal of multi-ethnic nations by supporting an independent Kosovo. A better choice is restoration of the self-governing status Kosovo held before 1989. The world must also work to cut off any arms or money flowing to the guerrilla group from Albania or groups in countries such as Germany.

The more urgent job will be persuading Mr. Milosevic, who began his drive for power in Yugoslavia with nationalist exhortations about Kosovo, to relax his grip. It will require unified pressure. The diplomats meeting tomorrow should begin by adopting Washington's proposal that the events of the last week be thoroughly investigated.

Russia, Greece, Italy and Britain should stop their trade with Belgrade, which has helped Mr. Milosevic stave off a foreign-exchange crisis and allowed him to maintain the patronage networks that keep him in power. If Russia is not willing to stop its sales of oil and arms, it should at least demand cash instead of barter from Serbia. Mr. Milosevic keeps Serbian and possibly personal bank accounts abroad, many reportedly in Cyprus. These should be frozen. To reinforce the message, the top diplomats of all NATO nations should make clear that Mr. Milosevic's defiance in Kosovo is being closely watched and is of great concern to them.

Editorial Observer/BRENT STAPLES

Why Colleges Shower Their Students With A's

The economist Milton Friedman taught that superior products flourish and shabby ones die out when consumers voted emphatically with their dollars. But the truth of the marketplace is that shabby products can do just fine if they sustain the veneer of quality while slipping downhill, as has much of higher education. Faced with demanding consumers and stiff competition, colleges have simply issued more and more A's, stoking grade inflation and devaluing degrees.

Grade inflation is in full gallop at every level, from struggling community institutions to the elites of the Ivy League. In some cases, campus-wide averages have crept up from a C just 10 years ago to B-plus today. Some departments shower students with A's to fill poorly attended courses that might otherwise be canceled. Individual professors inflate grades after consumer-conscious administrators hound them into it. Professors at every level inflate to escape negative evaluations by students, whose opinions now figure in tenure and promotion decisions.

The most vulnerable teachers are the part-timers who have no job security and who now teach more than

Grade inflation keeps the customers satisfied.

half of all college courses. Writing in the last issue of the journal *Academe*, two part-timers suggest that students routinely corner adjuncts, threatening to complain if they do not turn C's into A's. An Ivy League professor said recently that if tenure disappeared, universities would be "free to sell diplomas outright."

The consumer appetite for less rigorous education is nowhere more evident than in the University of Phoenix, a profit-making school that shuns traditional scholarship and offers a curriculum so superficial that critics compare it to a drive-through restaurant. Two hundred colleges have closed since a businessman dreamed up Phoenix 20 years ago. Meanwhile, the university has expanded to 60 sites spread around the country, and more than 40,000 students, making it the country's largest private university.

Phoenix competes directly with

the big state universities and lesser-known small colleges, all of which fear a student drain. But the elite schools fear each other and their customers, the students, who are becoming increasingly restive about the cost of a first-tier diploma, which now exceeds \$120,000. Faced with the prospect of crushing debt, students are treating grades as a matter of life and death — occasionally even suing to have grades revised upward.

Twenty years ago students grumbled, then lived with the grades they were given. Today, colleges of every stature permit them to appeal low grades through deans or permanent boards of inquiry. In *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Prof. Paul Korshin of the University of Pennsylvania recently described his grievance panel as the "rhinoplasty committee," because it does "cosmetic surgery" on up to 500 transcripts a year. The argument that grades are rising because students are better prepared is simply not convincing. The evidence suggests that students and parents are demanding — and getting — what they think of as their money's worth.

One way to stanch inflation is to

Motherhood for All, at a Price

To the Editor:

Re your March 4 Op-Ed forum, "Fertility for Sale": Like commercial manufacturing, modern procreation is becoming increasingly compartmentalized and abstracted. We isolate the units (gametes frozen in egg and sperm "banks"), and we subcontract the alchemy of parenthood to donors and surrogates.

In the secular light of the market, motherhood is not a priceless role, but a production process that can be parceled out according to the laws of efficiency and profit: genetic mother, surrogate mother, birth mother, adoptive mother, mother's helper — a menu of virtual parenthood.

Every aspect of parenthood short of love can now be bought or sold — egg, sperm, use of a uterus, mother's milk, child care and so on. The question is not simply whether women should be permitted to sell their eggs on the open market, but whether we are going to permit the market to determine our children's generation.

CATHERINE ORENSTEIN

New York, March 5, 1998

Think of the Children

To the Editor:

As a child who was abandoned by my natural parents, I can imagine only one thing worse: having been sold. Your March 4 Op-Ed forum on selling eggs included no words from the products, only rhetoric from the practitioners.

C. M. HAYES

L.I. City, Queens, March 4, 1998

Hardly the Slave Trade

To the Editor:

Some of the writers in "Fertility for Sale" (Op-Ed, March 4) are reluctant to accept egg sales. Long before women were donating eggs, men were quietly selling their half of the fertility equation and in return for a weekly "visit" to the clinic could earn \$2,500 a year. This practice is not mentioned perhaps because we are more comfortable with men aggressively trying to procreate.

Unprepared for Death

To the Editor:

Alma Dougherty's ordeal as her mother died is, sadly, nothing new (front page, March 4). Our family experienced the same lack of caring and preparation for death from the medical professions in Reading, Pa., almost 25 years ago. At least hospices exist now. What remains is the inability or unwillingness of doctors to recognize what philosophers and novelists have always known: that death is a part of life.

My parents died alone in their hospital rooms within three months of each other, my father at 58 and my mother at 55. While I question whether enough was done for them during their illnesses, one thing is certain: nothing was done for my parents or the rest of our family to prepare us for their deaths.

JOHN T. FIDLER

Dover, N.J., March 5, 1998

Caring for Survivors

To the Editor:

Re "As Life Ebbs, So Does Time to Elect Comforts of Hospice" (front page, March 4): Our family's experience with hospice care when my mother died was very positive.

My mother had a mid-brain stroke a year ago that left her incapacitated. Fortunately she left a living will, stating that there was to be no intravenous feeding or respirators. She also gave me durable power of attorney and designated me as health care surrogate. There was a will giving instructions on cremation.

We should all be this considerate and let our family, friends, doctors and lawyers know what we want. Even though my brother and I had to make a lot of decisions, we did not have to torture ourselves by wondering if we were doing the right thing.

PHYLLIS RUDOLPH MCGAUGHEY

Houston, March 4, 1998

Cynthia Gorney equates surrogate

motherhood done primarily for money with selling humans, something prohibited "by law and venerable tradition." This is hardly the slave trade, though. If you pay your doctor to perform a life-threatening operation and you live as a result, is the doctor selling life?

MARK KEEGAN

Larchmont, N.Y., March 4, 1998

Taboo for Women Only

To the Editor:

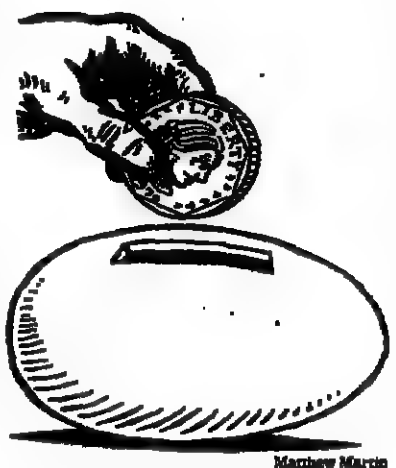
Re "Fertility for Sale," your March 4 Op-Ed forum: If men are compensated for donating their genetic material, women have a similar right. But while male extraction is simple, this is not so for female donation. Compensation should reflect this.

I know from my experience — as a prospective biological mother, not a donor — that egg retrieval is time-consuming and effort-intensive. It involves periods of daily trips to the doctor for hormone shots, ultrasounds and other procedures, culminating in an outpatient surgical extraction and leaving behind a scar.

The fees of more than \$1,000 mentioned by your writers seem very reasonable.

CATHERINE O'HARRA

Houston, March 4, 1998



Feminists' Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

Catharine A. MacKinnon's stirring defense of sexual harassment law (Op-Ed, March 5) would be more compelling if it were not for the double standard that the Monica S. Lewinsky affair has illustrated.

Whether for good or ill, sexual harassment law has come to be seen as just another political tool — invoked by feminists against those they dislike, ignored when its application would be inconvenient. For that matter, MacKinnon and her political allies have no one to blame but themselves.

GLENN H. REYNOLDS

Knoxville, Tenn., March 5, 1998

The writer is a professor of law at the University of Tennessee.

To the Editor: Catharine A. MacKinnon (Op-Ed, March 5) does nothing to assuage the fear that sexual harassment laws and standards are vague, nor does she convince one that fears of false claims are unfounded.

She makes it clear that working women cannot sue for "mutual" sexual interactions, but goes on to state that power differences can constitute a form of force for sexual coercion. No doubt that is true, but that very fact often makes it difficult to determine when sexual interactions are "mutual." Interactions that are deemed mutual at the time may be seen differently after the fact. Abusive behavior should be actionable, but Ms. MacKinnon does nothing to clarify what constitutes abuse and how to prove it.

KATRY CURTIN

New Haven, March 5, 1998

Students Lose on Loans

To the Editor:

Regarding the controversy in Congress over interest rates on federally guaranteed student loans (Education page, March 4):

Banks have long been an unnecessary middleman in the scheme of financing student loans. Banks insisted on providing the loans so that students would be forced into a bank and would begin to build brand loyalty.

In fact, bank participation increases the cost to the students. If banks were taken out of the loop, interest rates on the loans, as well as the cost of loan administration, would decrease, saving money and providing education financing in a more efficient manner.

BARBARA J. HILL

Weston, Mass., March 4, 1998

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A Bigger NATO Is Good for Europe

To the Editor:

You express doubts about expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (editorials, March 1 and 5). If you truly believe that NATO's "core purpose, defense against the Soviet bloc, is obsolete," you should take the next step and propose that we disband the alliance altogether. But if you concede that in a dangerous world the United States still needs an alliance with Europe, you need to come up with a better rationale for closing NATO's doors to some of our closest European friends.

You rightly say that "East-West divisions are evaporating." Yet you do not ask what would happen to this trend if we told 200 million people in a dozen Central and Eastern European countries that they can never be part of Europe's pre-eminent security alliance just because of Russia's outdated suspicions.

You are right that the stability of Europe "depends heavily on whether Russia completes its transition to democracy and a market economy." But you forget that Russia will not become a modern European power if it continues to look upon Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as a buffer zone that separates it from the rest of Europe.

You sell Russia short when you assume that Russian attitudes about Central Europe will never change. You ignore the progress Russia has made, with the United States, on arms control: from accelerating the destruction of weapons under the Start 1 treaty, to agreeing on the outlines of Start 2, to ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Your suggestion that the European Union will promote unity in a way that embraces rather than excludes Russia is also puzzling. Russia is not only excluded from the foreseeable course of E.U. enlargement, but the E.U. has also told likely entrants such as Poland and Hungary that they must put up new barriers to travel and trade with their eastern neighbors.

NATO enlargement, on the other hand, positively requires all aspiring allies to build closer ties with all their neighbors, particularly with those not likely to join the alliance soon.

JAMES P. RUBIN

Asst. Secy. for Public Affairs

Department of State

Washington, March 5, 1998

E.U. Membership

To the Editor:

By asserting that we should put off expansion of NATO and allow the European Union to unify that continent, you suggest that the two are mutually exclusive (editorial, March 5).

Yet inclusion of the most qualified countries in NATO does not preclude the European Union from expanding to include non-NATO countries.

Both institutions have their respective membership criteria, and neither will encompass all the former Warsaw Pact countries at once. That is no reason to maintain the old lines that divided Europe. Holding NATO hostage to the European Union, or vice versa, would be to punish Central and Eastern Europeans, who have been victimized enough during this century by shortsighted policies.

FRANK KOSZORUS JR.

Washington, March 5, 1998

The writer is a board member of the Hungarian American Coalition.

Solid Czech Majority

To the Editor:

Your editorial against NATO enlargement ("Thinking Perilously With Europe," March 1) ignores the aspirations of smaller European countries. It goes back to the cold war era, when the world's destiny depended on the Western alliance's relations with a single, hostile superpower. It ignores the fact that NATO enlargement is also supported by all the NATO member states as well as all the post-Communist Eastern European countries.

It is not true that "a majority of citizens in the Czech Republic see no need to join NATO." According to an Institute for Public Opinion Research poll taken last month, 55 percent of Czech respondents agreed that their country should strive for NATO membership, with only 26 percent opposed. (The remainder were undecided.) The Center for Empirical Research poll, also taken last month and which did not offer an "undecided" option, showed 59 percent supporting membership.

ALEXANDR VONDRA

Ambassador of the Czech Republic

Washington, March 4, 1998

Win-Win Scenario

To the Editor:

Re your March 1 editorial and March 4 letters on NATO expansion: Has anyone considered another alternative: admitting these countries to NATO on the basis of being a demilitarized state — only police-level forces for local security. Protection against external military aggression would be assured by the core NATO countries.

This would avoid the specter of a military ring encircling the Russian border, and at the same time allow these countries to concentrate on developing their economies without the burden of supporting a large military establishment. The only losers in this scenario are the international arms merchants.

RALPH LAKE

San Diego, March 4, 1998

In America

BOB HERBERT

Day of Humiliation

Ellis Elliott was awakened suddenly by an insane pounding on the metal door of his Bronx apartment. It was clear that someone was trying to break the door down.

Terrified, Mr. Elliott leaped naked from his bed and grabbed the unloaded .25-caliber pistol he kept in a nightstand.

He ran into the front room, still naked, and shouted: "Who is it? Who is it?"

By this time the top half of the door was caving in and most of the door had been forced open a few inches. Whoever it was would be inside in a moment. Panicked, Mr. Elliott fired a warning shot over the top of the door.

That shot was answered by a fearful barrage of gunfire. Mr. Elliott dived behind a table and squatted there, trembling. Bullets pierced a freezer, a reclining chair, a living room cabinet, the wall of a closet, the wall behind his sofa.

A couple of dozen shots were fired before the barrage ceased. Only then, said Mr. Elliott, did he hear someone call out, "Police!"

Oh Lord, thought Mr. Elliott. He didn't know whether to be relieved or even more frightened.

The cops hollered for him to slide his gun toward the door.

"Yessir," he remembered replying. "Please don't shoot no more. I didn't know you were the police. I've never done nothing wrong in my life."

A contingent of plainclothes officers armed with a warrant and a battering ram had gone to Mr. Elliott's apartment on Sheridan Avenue about 7 or 8 A.M. on Feb. 27, presumably in search of a drug dealer. Somehow they invaded the wrong apartment. Mr. Elliott, 44, had never been in trouble with the law and is due to serve on a Bronx grand jury in the spring.

It was an honest mistake, the police would later say.

But this is what happened to Mr. Elliott before the mistake was realized: He was dragged naked into the fourth-floor hallway and his hands were cuffed behind his back. He was repeatedly addressed as nigger and black mother-so-and-so. He said that when he begged to be allowed to put on some clothes, the officers told him: "You're nothing but an animal, nigger. You don't deserve any clothes."

He was walked naked down a stairwell to the third floor. "They made me sit on the cold, dirty floor with my back against the wall," he said. A woman who was about to leave her

apartment for work spotted Mr. Elliott in the hallway, shrieked and ran back into her apartment.

Meanwhile, police officers were inside Mr. Elliott's apartment, wrecking the joint. No drugs were found.

Mr. Elliott continued to beg for some clothing. Finally, in a particularly sadistic gesture, the officers gave him some of his girlfriend's clothes to wear. That's the way he was dressed when he was taken out on the street in front of a crowd of onlookers.

More humiliation awaited him at the 44th Precinct station house. "Everybody was looking at me and laugh-

Cops bust wrong door, wrong man.

ing," he said. "The police officers were saying, 'Look at Buckwheat' and 'See how funny they look when we make these early morning arrests.'"

He was put in a cell and left there for some hours, still in women's clothes and, for at least part of that time, still with his wrists cuffed behind him.

"This is not America to me," said Mr. Elliott's lawyer, Joseph Keher. "This was an innocent man, but no one would listen to him."

Mr. Keher, a veteran attorney who once represented the families of the victims of the Kent State massacre, denounced the recklessness of the police break-in and charged that similar foul-ups occur more often than most people realize. He said, "Bullets fly, doors are smashed with police battering rams, lives are endangered and homes are wrecked by Keystone Kops mentalities that have never heard of the Fourth Amendment."

Investigators eventually learned that they had made a terrible mistake with Mr. Elliott and he was released about 1 A.M. the following day.

He walked home, still clad in women's clothes. When he got to his apartment (which no longer had a door), he found police officers relaxing in his living room, eating snacks and watching television.

They seemed amused by the department's mistake. He remembered one of them saying: "You better get a good lawyer and sue the [expletive] out of them."

The Microsoft We Deserve

By Edward Tenner

The world's strongest government is fighting its most formidable corporation in a spectacle enthralling to a citizenry unaccustomed to such superpower confrontations.

We have mixed feelings about Federal might and private hegemony. We sense that the Justice Department's lawsuit against Microsoft is serious indeed, yet we also aren't so sure which side to root for. Detached fascination seems as common as partisanship. Would a decision against Microsoft help slash the costs of owning a computer? Or would greater diversity of operating systems and basic applications software create headaches for computer owners who would be forced to choose among incompatible programs? (Already some e-mail programs are barely on speaking terms.) On the other hand, which knowledge-based industry would be safe from the expansion of a victorious Microsoft?

Bill Gates defends his business practices by saying that he's only responding to consumer demand. "If we can't innovate in our products, then you know we can be replaced," he said in a Washington Post interview last week. Competitors insist that Microsoft ruthlessly reduces consumer choice. The trial may let them prove it. A Microsoft near-monopoly on basic software like word processing programs and spreadsheets would be a disaster. Like many other users, I fear it.

But we consumers also share responsibility for Microsoft's rise. We want two different things. We want comforting uniform standards, which paternalistic monopolies provide, but we also want choice. Indeed, if anything, Microsoft is the creation of the contradictory desires of the American consumer — a monopoly that gives us too many choices.

Edward Tenner, a visiting researcher in the geosciences department at Princeton, is the author of "Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences."

Microsoft is not the first dominant, standard-setting giant corporation, as profitable and irresistible as it has seemed. The Federal Government once created these powerful forces. As the historian Richard R. John has shown in "Spreading the News," the Post Office Act of 1792 created America's original network of information and commerce. The great railroad and telegraph companies later extended it.

Yesterday's giants were to some degree allies and even instruments of the Federal Government. Herman Hollerith developed the punch card to process data for the 1890 census, laying the foundation of the future the L.B.M. Corporation.

AT&T and L.B.M. worked closely with Government agencies. The Bell System, often resented for its monopoly of service and manufacturing, was proud of the quasi-public role it claimed. Americans returning

from paternalistic monopolies, quickly embraced the freedom offered by the breakup of AT&T in 1984. They celebrated their emancipation by returning their familiar museum-quality masterpieces and buying cheap handsets and costlier "designer" novelties built to last a year or two rather than a generation. Dreyfuss and the old AT&T had stood for high-quality uniformity. But Americans wanted change, variety and choice.

Microsoft flourished by rejecting Dreyfuss's focus on the typical people he called Joe, Josephine and Joe Jr. Microsoft's operating system and other programs are outstanding not for visionary elegance but for the freedom they give us to customize, modify and tinker — to change the screen background and do the same thing in a half dozen ways.

Microsoft still does not match the basic science and mathematics strengths of the laboratories of AT&T and L.B.M. in the glorious postwar years. But it has lots of brilliant, energetic young workers who will do their best to please you with the next release, or the one after that. Instead of offering you the one perfect operating system, the company asks you to accept as "upgrading" what in the days of the mainframe was derided as "forced migration." As Mr. Gates testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, the company spends \$2.6 billion a year on research and development.

Microsoft has triumphed because it has given us what we asked for: constant novelty coupled with acceptable stability, rather than the other way around. Microsoft encouraged our impulses to embrace fashion, affirm conformity, love planned obsolescence. People talk simplicity but buy features and pay the consequences. Complex features multiply hidden costs and erode both efficiency and simplicity. There is no such thing as a free menu.

The Government cannot avoid refereeing the wars between Microsoft and its competitors — if only by doing nothing and letting markets take their course. Some analysts believe that the Government's prolonged antitrust proceedings against I.B.M. a generation ago paradoxical-

A monopoly that caters to our every changing need.

from European tours confirmed the claims that the United States had the world's best and cheapest service.

These corporations had a different approach to technological change. AT&T and L.B.M. not only dominated the market, they also believed in gradual, planned innovations grounded in years of research, and as monopolies, they could afford to make changes slowly. They prized standards. Their laboratories hired not only leading physicists, mathematicians and engineers, but also specialists in subjects like keyboard response.

Outside contractors were equally meticulous. Teams of professionals at Henry Dreyfuss Associates created sculptural but functional telephones for Bell Laboratories, which was part of AT&T. You didn't have to attend last year's superb retrospective on Dreyfuss at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum to admire the phones. Millions of the 1968 Trimline and the 1949 Model 500 are still in use thanks to their stoic ruggedness. But consumers, however nostalgic

Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

Betty Made Him Do It

WASHINGTON
The President's deposition is a classic. It is so very Clinton.

Talking to Paula Jones's lawyers under oath, Bill Clinton did not take any responsibility. He did not express any shame. He simply, as is his wont, blamed others and gallantly suggested that women who have claimed sexual encounters with him are liars and crazy people.

Ambushed on the subject of Monica Lewinsky by lawyers who had been secretly briefed by Linda Tripp, Mr. Clinton had a simple explanation for all the visits, all the gifts, all the extraordinary headhunting help for a young woman who had been banished from the White House for inappropriate behavior: Betty made me do it.

According to accounts of the deposition in The Washington Post and The Times, the President did the manly thing. He blamed his decent, loyal secretary, Betty Currie.

Mr. Clinton said it was Betty who became friends with Monica. It makes sense that the 58-year-old secretary, known for her dignity and discretion, would have enjoyed the dithering visits of a shopaholic who thought she was having a high school romance with the President, like, of the United States.

Mr. Clinton said it was Betty who urged him to bring back souvenirs from the Black Dog in Martha's Vineyard. It makes sense that the unassuming secretary would pester the President to bring back presents from his vacation for her friends.

Mr. Clinton said it was Betty who passed on all the letters and packages from Monica. It makes sense that the

From Monroe to McBeal.

ultra-efficient Betty would assume that this busy, busy President would be eager to take time out to look at the relentless stream of stuff Betty's airhead friend messengered over. Mr. Clinton recalled Monica's sending a note with her thoughts about how to recruit young people for White House activities. Now that was certainly worth a read-through, given that Monica was an F.O.B. — Friend of Betty.

Mr. Clinton said it was possible that he gave Monica a hatpin, a brooch and "Leaves of Grass." But Betty had to retrieve those presents because, after all, she was Monica's friend.

Mr. Clinton said it was Betty's idea to call Vernon Jordan to get him to find the young woman a glitzy job in New York. The President thought it proper and was kept informed. Why wouldn't the modest secretary enlist the most powerful lawyer and the busiest President to dance attendance on her young charge?

The deposition was so very Clinton not only in shifting blame to aides who could ill afford the ensuing legal bills, but also in its brazenness.

"Is there something you are trying to ask me about?" the cornered President challenged Ms. Jones's lawyers when they bored in on the Monica matter, echoing Travis Bickle's "Are you talkin' to me?"

If only the President who now says he is too busy to give the answers that would get his loyalists off the hook had been too busy in '95 to hang with interns who delivered pizza during the Government shutdown.

But some truth sneaked out last week. On Thursday, when Mr. Jordan testified to the grand jury, his lawyer, William Hundley, took a cigarette break outside. Chip Reid reported on MSNBC that reporters asked Mr. Hundley about Mr. Jordan's statement that he tried to help Ms. Lewinsky after Ms. Currie requested it.

Did Mr. Jordan think her call was made at the behest of the President? "No question," Mr. Hundley said. "Walking away, Mr. Hundley — who represented John Mitchell in Watergate — observed that 'Monica Lewinsky is no Marilyn Monroe.'"

That sharp comment illuminated why Mr. Jordan, who bragged about his locker-room friendship with Mr. Clinton, may indeed have been surprised at the relationship between the President and the intern. The surprise was not the President's appetite. It was the President's taste.

Why had Mr. Clinton risked so much for this woman?

"We've gone from Camelot to 'Ally McBeal,'" said one disgruntled Clintonite. "Monica is like Ally — ambitious, sexual, insecure and always wearing short skirts. We went from a bigger-than-life movie grandeur with Kennedy to a TV sitcom with Clinton."

All right, so America has accepted the fact that the President is jawdri. But can't he do it in a way that's not so tacky?

book

Menachem Mendel Schneerson

Toward a Meaningful Life

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Set the 'chained women' free

The plight of Jewish women trapped in sour marriages is becoming an international human rights issue, Marilyn Henry reports

What could be more opportune than using yesterday's International Women's Day to launch a Human Rights Watch highlighting the predicament of *agunot* — "chained women" who cannot obtain a religious Jewish divorce?

Together with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, the International Council of Jewish Women just announced their grass-roots project, which also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The issue of *agunot* is a novel one in human rights circles, where people were "shocked" to hear of Jewish women's predicament.

No one has thought of Jewish women as being victims of human rights violations, says Sharon Shenhav, an Orthodox lawyer in Jerusalem. The reaction, she notes, tends to be: "You Jewish women are so smart and sophisticated — and you have a human rights problem?"

"As a group," Shenhav concurs, "Jewish women are probably the most educated and successful — and yet a situation persists where they have been denied the right to equality in marriage, a right recognized by international human rights conventions adopted by the UN in the last 50 years."

"All human rights documents recognize the right to equality in marriage, divorce and the founding of a family," Shenhav points out.

So she is collecting stories — women's tales of rage, loss, betrayal, grief and despair at the hands of husbands and rabbis who have shackled them in marriages gone sour.

ISRAEL has overlooked this particular aspect of human rights in its international reports on women, both last summer and last week.

In July, the government presented a 266-page report on the status of women in Israel to the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The panel was reviewing how nations who signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women are implementing the treaty through legislative, judicial and administrative measures.

The convention, which was adopted in 1979, established an "international bill of rights for women" and includes 30 articles that describe legislative, political, economic and cultural measures to ensure the full advancement and participation of women in their nations.

Israel ratified the convention in 1991, but it did not fully endorse its provisions. Jerusalem had "reservations" about Article 16, which deals with equality in marriage and family law. Instead, the Israeli report defended the state's deference to religious law.

"The maintenance of religious law in matters of family and divorce is perceived to be one of the most vital components of Israeli law, since it ensures that the State of Israel is the state of the Jewish people," the Israeli report said. "It is thus considered a foundational aspect of the sensitive relationship between religion and state in Israel."

"A foundation that is unjust and that causes pain and suffering is not a very good foundation," says Shenhav, a member of the Israeli delegation to the UN Commission

on the Status of Women and an expert on marriage and divorce in Jewish law.

"How much can we tolerate injustice in our own system?" she asks.

JERUSALEM has also expressed reservations about Article 7 of CEDAW, which deals with the appointment of women as judges in religious courts.

The Religious Judges Law (1955) and the Druze Courts Law (1962) have been interpreted by Jewish, Moslem and Druze religious leaders to mean that only men can serve as judges in these courts, the Israeli report says.

Israel is not the only state in which religious, traditional or tribal law is used as a shield to discriminate against women, Shenhav observes, noting that it has also occurred in Asia and in the Arab world.

"But I would argue that when religious law discriminates against women and denies them their

equal rights, there has to be a way to accommodate religious law to CEDAW, or give an option to women alongside religious law," Shenhav says.

"While ancient Jewish law was designed to protect and support Jewish women, today that same Jewish law is being used by some as a tool to deny women their rights to equality in marriage and divorce. There were more human rights for women in the 15th century than there are in the 20th," she adds.

One New York religious court that has assisted *agunot*, Bet Din L'Be'ayot Agunot, has the "courage" Shenhav's group is seeking from religious authorities. It has granted some 100 annulments and divorces since it was established 18 months ago by Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, chancellor emeritus of Bar-Ilan University.

While it has won kudos from women, though, it has drawn opposition from Agudath Israel of

America, which charges that the court is "unworthy of the name" and says its principals have "no standing as decisors."

AS THE UN was commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights its Commission on the Status of Women was meeting last week in New York, focusing on human rights and violence against women.

However, *agunot* were not raised as a special issue when the Israeli delegation gave its report. Instead, delegation head Masha Lubelsky focused on economic equality for women and on protecting women from domestic violence.

Lubelsky, a former MK and now an adviser to Avigdor Kahalani, minister of internal security, says the problem of *agunot* was related to the political issues surrounding the lack of separation of religion and state in Israel.

However, she acknowledged:

"The rabbis used to find a solution in two minutes. Now we have rabbis who are more extreme. They don't find the proper solution, and they make life complicated."

It was the search for ways to find compassion and relief for *agunot* that led the ICJW to announce the creation of the International Jewish Women's Human Rights Watch.

The project intends to document, research and publicize the circumstances of *agunot* in Jewish communities around the world. It will be administered in conjunction with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, with Shenhav as director.

The project has begun to publicize Shenhav's stories in a newsletter, whose inaugural issue has just been released. It documents the cases of several *agunot*, illustrating discrimination against women and a violation of human rights.

RACHEL, an Orthodox woman in New York, has a civil divorce from her husband David, but has remained an *aguna* for more than 20 years. Her husband refused to give her a religious divorce until she gave up some of the couple's property that she had been granted under the terms of the New York civil divorce.

In the meantime, her husband remarried. He had received a *heter* — a permit from Orthodox authorities — allowing him to remarry although he had not given his first wife a get.

This is an injustice, Shenhav says, because Jewish law gave David the opportunity to remarry that it had denied to Rachel.

War, disease, accidents, terror incidents and criminal activity take the lives of Jewish husbands in every Jewish community, creating horrific cases of *agunot* who are childless widows.

One was Yvette, a young Israeli who lost her husband and child in a car accident. She waited nearly six years for her husband's surviving brother to perform the ceremony of *halitza* that would free her — suddenly a childless widow — from automatic betrothal to her brother-in-law in a "Levirate" marriage. The brother, who lived in Paris, saw an opportunity for extortion and agreed to grant *halitza* — if Yvette paid him \$70,000.

These cases violate Jewish women's human rights, and the denial of women's rights often is based on religious law, Shenhav says.

But, she cautions, this issue is not confined to the Orthodox community. In the absence of civil marriage it affects all Israelis. And throughout the Jewish world there are cases in which vindictive nonobservant husbands are able to wield religious law like a cudgel over their Orthodox wives.

The plight of *agunot* is a problem for the entire Jewish community, Shenhav says. "Every man has a mother. It can happen to anyone."

Shenhav and June Jacobs, president of the International Council of Jewish Women, hope that publicizing the women's cases will bring pressure on the Orthodox rabbinical courts to find means to set the *agunot* free.

"We will do whatever is necessary to encourage communities to find solutions to this painful problem," says Jacobs, raising the possibility of the Lysistrata strategy.

According to the ancient Greek comedy by Aristophanes, the women of Athens and Sparta declare a sex strike until the men agree to make peace.

Eeeeeek!!! Haredim in Eilat!

The sunbathers are still sunbathing, the beach bums are still bumming. The prostitutes are still, well, you know, and the restaurants are still posting silly-looking men at the door to lure passersby, who are still passing them by. Eilat is still Eilat.

But something's happening here. Call it a crusade, a revolution, an awakening. Whatever it is, some residents are afraid.

Eilat is becoming religious. In these histrionic days of religious-secular antagonism, those words are a red flag.

When Habad gained a foothold here, years back, it was sort of cute. A few black-hatted bochers scuttling about prodding pot-bellied tourists to put on tefillin.

Now, though, it's Shas. Now it's getting serious.

All three local cab drivers I queried were less than enthusiastic. On one short ride, we passed three small Shas posters. The driver exhausted his vocabulary of English swear words describing what that meant.

Jacky Opinsky, an old-timer here, formerly from England, expressed himself more quotably. "If it's true that the haredim are getting strong here, I'm worried."

Significantly, all the reactions reflected alarm over what could be, rather than what is. No one claimed their city had

available bomb shelters. cleaned them out and made them into synagogues. And they're all full.

"Walk around here at eight, nine in the morning on Shabbat, what do you see? Like Bnei Brak. Li-i-ke — Bnei — Bra-a-k! It's unbelievable — all you see is people going to — synagogue. Religious people? Sec-u-lar people! Yes! Here! In Eilat!"

And what about secular fears of hardization?

"The seculars are not afraid of us. Maybe one percent. There are a few people who want to make trouble, but I don't pay attention to them. They once held a meeting against us, on a Shabbat, 12 people were there — and 30 journalists. You understand?"

"You see in the newspapers, 'You're going to make a Bnei Brak in Eilat, you're going to close Eilat' — No. We're simply going to give a voice to people who've lived here 30, 40 years, people who want a Jewish life for their grandchildren."

"And if the city becomes haredi, or religious, and the people say they don't want pork sold here, it would be legitimate, no? Do you want democracy only when it suits Meretz?"

SHAULI recalls a story, and fulminates.

"A few months ago, Ovadia Yosef went to the Begin School. Parents screamed, 'How can you let him come and brainwash our children? Fire the principal! Can — you —

Eilat is becoming religious. In these histrionic days of religious-secular antagonism, those words are a red flag

yet changed.

And it won't, promised Yitzhak Shauli, the No. 2 man in the city's religious council. He claims to have started it all.

In a three-hour interview, Shauli was most convincing that there's nothing to worry about. Topless Swedes won't be stoned, hotels won't lose their kosher licenses for holding New Year's Eve parties, and pork and shrimp will still slither down willing gullets.

Shauli, 48, is a dyed-in-the-wool Shas man: Two immense photos of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef — one of them larger than life — cover the wall behind his office chair.

"Eilat has had the stigma of being a Sodom-and-Gomorra city. It used to be you couldn't say you were religious here. If you walked around with a kippa, they'd say, 'Stop joking around, take that thing off.'"

"I changed all that. In the '92 Knesset elections, Shas had 186 voters in Eilat. In the 1996 elections, 2,407. You understand what's been happening here? Nowhere else in Israel has there been such a jump. Add to that another 600 voters for Aguda, and about 700 for the NRP. That's 3,700 out of 16,000 voters."

Shauli leans in on me for emphasis. "You understand? This — is — a Jew-ish — city-y-y-y!"

SHAULI is very charismatic, and speaks like a slick politician — using measured doses of bombast and subdued hypnotic flourishes. He'll occasionally pummel a key phrase, stressing each syllable and ending with a protracted intonation.

"If I hadn't been crazy, like they said I was when I started this in 1989, it wouldn't have happened. But those 3,700 voters were here all along; they didn't come from outside. They weren't brought here to boost Shas. I wasn't sent here from somewhere else to bring terror, to be a dictator."

"I'll give you an example. There's a nude belly dancer in town who said she voted Shas in the Knesset election."

"A — bell-y — dan-er! Sha-a-a-s!"

"And you know what she says? 'I see in Shas a party that brings me back to Judaism, back to my family.' She now keeps Shabbat and kashrut — yet she still dances; nu, she gets \$500 for a performance..."

He doesn't seem bent on coercing her to change.

"In 1971 there were 8,000 residents, seven synagogues. Today? 48,000 residents, still seven synagogues. But in the last four years we took all 15

in-a-gine? A month later, a homosexual was brought to the school, to talk about his lifestyle. No outcry.

"Secular community centers we have, a basketball team with two blacks from Harlem we have, a soccer team we have, escort girls we have, a casino we have, we have everything — but for me, nothing. Why?"

Shauli boasts about Shas's charity work, but rejects as demagoguery my assertion that this is precisely Shas's formula: building political power on goodies to the disaffected poor.

"It's not like up north, where you buy a seat on Yom Kippur for \$1,000. No. Here's a sidewalk, here's a kippa, here's a talit, here's a tazzan, here's a Torah, here's a seat for you and your family — free." He thumps his desk and then spreads his hands. "No — mo-ne-y-y!"

"And if there's a family with nothing to eat, the synagogue will take care of everything: for a bar mitzva, even for a wedding. Yes, even a wedding! Somebody wants to get married, but they have no money, no job; no problem, just go to Shauli. We have donors who'll give them a nice suit, a wedding dress, they can have photos or a video of their wedding, and tasty catered food, and they can invite 50 people, or 100, or 150. And nobody in town will talk. They can tell everyone they did it by — them-se-e-elves."

So why doesn't everyone love Shas?

"We have a problem with hasbara [publicity]. We haven't learned to make an elephant from a fly. We make a fly from an elephant. That's our mistake. We do a lot, but it seems like a little. Professionals have a big PR company working for them, they make a big thing out of nothing."

Two years ago, Shauli demanded and got a separate beach for the religious.

"How can you live here and ignore the beach? There was an outcry at the beginning: Women in bikinis posed next to our sign, and newspapers ran the pictures with the headline: 'Eilat goes haredi.' Why? Why? Don't we have this right?"

Shauli's assistant, Ilan Adam, dropped in for a moment. Perfect timing. "Nu? This Adam [man] decided he wants a better life for his children, a normal life, a Jewish life."

Adam looks like a typical Shasnik. In Eilat terms, he is.

"Know what I used to do before this?" he says, twirling his peyot. "I was a lifeguard. Best lifeguard in town." He smiles warmly. "Now I'm busy saving myself."

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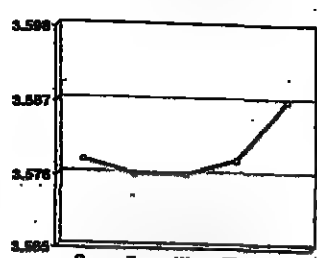
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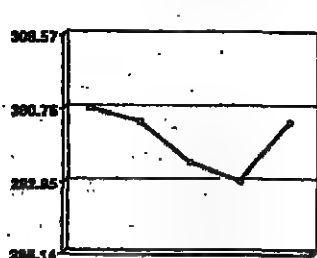
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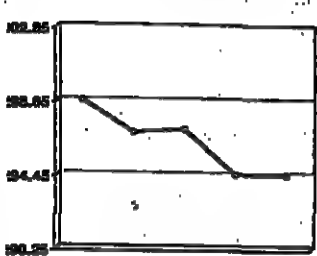


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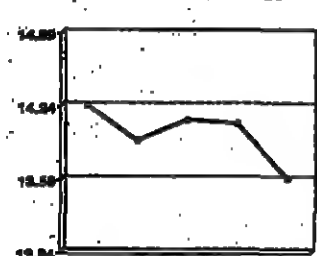
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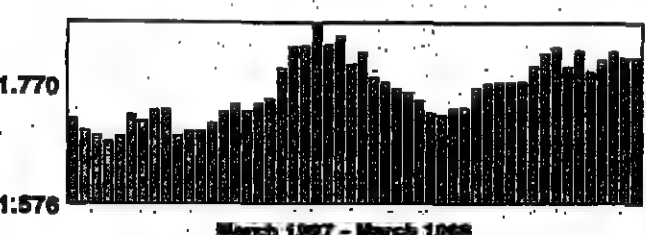


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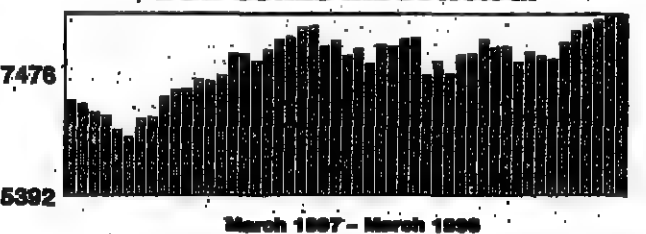
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Visay to open new plant next month

Visay Israel is hiring 600 workers, including 450 for a new factory in Beersheba, which plans to open in April. Most of the new employees will be engineers and technicians, according to a spokesman, who said the company is encountering difficulties in finding suitable personnel.

The company has four plants in Israel, whose sales came to \$270 million in 1997, and are expected to reach \$335m. this year. Based in Pennsylvania, Visay develops and manufactures a wide range of electronic components. The company sells to the computer, telecommunications and military industries.

Nina Gilbert

Nearly \$1b. in counterpurchases last year

Foreign companies made counterpurchases here amounting to some \$983 million in 1997, the Industrial Cooperation Authority said yesterday. In the past five years, the purchases have totaled \$4.8 billion. The companies which made the largest purchases last year were Pratt & Whitney, IBM, Boeing-McDonnell, Digital, and Siemens.

Nina Gilbert

IDB, Tshuva agree on joint management of Delek

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Discount Investments and contractor Yitzhak Tshuva reached an agreement for the joint management of Delek, the Israel Fuel Corp., both companies yesterday announced.

The move came only few days after Tshuva completed the take over of Israel's second largest petroleum company. According to the agreement, Discount and Tshuva will have an equal number of representatives on Delek's board of directors until the end of January 1999, even though that

Discount currently holds only 37 percent of the company while Tshuva controls 50%.

The two groups received an option to buy each others holdings. Discount holds a put option to sell all its holdings in Delek to Tshuva in two dates set by both parties at a price of NIS 160 per share, which is equal to the price in which Bank Hapoalim sold its 25% stake to Tshuva's company, Tashluz Assets. Meanwhile, Tashluz has a call option to buy Discount's holdings at the same price plus a variable premium that may reach up to NIS 7.2 million.

If both sides don't exercise the option,

Discount, which is a subsidiary of IDB Holdings Corp., will receive the right to buy Delek shares from Tashluz so that the two companies will hold an equal stake.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lenny Recanat will hold his post as chairman of the board, while Tshuva will have the right to appoint a replacement to Amnon Sadch, Delek's managing director.

The companies have also agreed to distribute a cash dividend of at least 30% of net income. Additionally, they will act to divide Delek's holdings in Super-Sol. Following this move Discount will purchase Tashluz's

holding in the supermarket chain for NIS 11.9 per share.

If the division of Super-Sol shares doesn't get all the necessary approvals, Discount will purchase Delek's holding in the retailer for NIS 11.9 per share. Discount and affiliate PEC Israel Economic Corp. hold 31% of Super-Sol, while Delek has about 13% of the supermarket chain.

If Tshuva decides to sell his holdings in Delek to IDB, Bank Hapoalim will receive a certain amount according to an agreement which was signed following the sale of the Bank's holdings in Delek.



If introduced commercially, tilting trains can offer a viable mass-transit link between the capital and Tel Aviv.

Unit on loan from Germany for trials

Tilting train can make J'lem-TA ride in 55 mins.

By SYLWISZ

A tilting train is currently here on loan from the German Adtranz company for trials on what is hoped will be a fast and frequent service from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to Beersheba, Israel Railways said yesterday. The tilting trains are able to travel on winding track without slowing down, which would cut travel time on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem line from 115 to 55 minutes.

Adi Feuchtwanger, chairman of the board of directors of the Ports and Railways Authority, said it is absurd that the country's two largest cities have no proper rail link.

He said that the use of tilting trains would require an outlay of only \$50 million for

infrastructure and \$50m. for the trains themselves to come from the government budget rather than private investors. It would be possible to run 14 trains a day in each direction. The alternative, which would cost \$500 billion, would mean constructing a totally new track from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Travel time from Tel Aviv to Beersheba would also be dramatically reduced, and theoretically it would take less time to travel by tilting train from Beersheba to Haifa than it would to drive on the Cross-Israel Highway, making it an attractive proposition.

Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzan showed reporters a promotional film explaining the tilting-train technology. A computer in the train's control system senses

curves on the track, and causes the wheels to spread as the train takes the curve, at a maximum tilt of 8 percent. Passengers do not feel the tilt - and according to the cartoon film neither do their drinks - but the impression given is of the scenery tilting.

The technology for tilting trains has been available since the early 1980s, but it is only in recent years that European countries have begun to adopt the system, and Israel is hoping to follow suit.

Unlike French TGV high-speed trains, which can reach speeds of 300 km/h but need special track at high cost, tilting trains can run on existing track for a minimal outlay, and can travel at 250 km/h, although a speed of 160 km/h is sufficient for Israel.

Customs finds funds to escort Jordanian trucks

By NINA GILBERT

The Customs and VAT Authority was able to secure temporary financing for security escorts of Jordanian trucks traveling to and from Haifa Port over the weekend, authority director Moti Ayalon said yesterday.

"This is a very sensitive matter and we made great efforts to ensure that the security escorts would continue," he said. "We found temporary financing for the next few days."

In the next few days, the authority is to hold high-level contacts to find the funds for the escorts, he said.

Mandy Barak, of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce's international department, said the problem relates to budget politics among the various ministries. "They always make noise, but eventually find the funds. They won't allow a situation in which the traffic is stopped," he said. "Anyhow, there is very little money involved here, maybe a few thousand shekels a month, due to the low level of traffic."

'Der Spiegel': Tietmeyer involved in insider-trading

The Bundesbank strengthened its rebuttal of a report in *Der Spiegel* magazine that President Hans Tietmeyer and Chief Economist Oskar Lasing were involved in improper bond transactions on their own account.

Economists and bond analysts said they believed that the accusations could lead to confusion, a short-term weakening of the German bond market, and even prompt personal consequences.

In its second statement in two days, the Bundesbank gave further details of the personal transactions of the two Bundesbank officials and describes a report to run in today's *Der Spiegel* as "infamous and provably wrong," stepping up from its description of the article 24 hours before as "misleading."

Der Spiegel claims that an asset manager bought 5-year notes worth 1 million marks (\$540,000) on credit for Tietmeyer when he was bank vice president in 1992. At that time, according to the magazine, it was clear within the Bundesbank that interest rates would fall and the price of the notes would rise.

"It's a strange story. The bond market could react with confusion and a weakening," said Martin Daheim, economist at Oppenheim Finanzanalyse GmbH. "The whole matter could put pressure on Tietmeyer and Lasing and possibly even lead to personal consequences, even though I think that's unlikely," he added.

"Tietmeyer, like Bill Clinton, is such a heavyweight," though, said Daheim that it's unlikely to push him out of office. Juergen Pfister, head of economic research at Commerzbank AG, Germany's third-largest publicly traded bank, said the accusations were an "unpleasant story."

The Bundesbank said yesterday that the government notes Tietmeyer and Lasing owned were of the series 101. An asset manager at Metallbank, a unit of Metallgesellschaft AG, bought them on October 5, 1992, after the Bundesbank said it would offer new notes of the series 102 with a 7.50 percent coupon, 2 basis points lower than the 7.52% coupon of the former series. (Bloomberg)

Korean envoy: Trade will stay stable

By NINA GILBERT

Israel should not be overly concerned about the effects of the economic crisis in South Korea, according to South Korean Ambassador Eui Yong Chung. "The fears are unjustified," he said. "Most of Israel's exports to South Korea are in electronic components which are used to make finished products and exported to third countries."

"Moreover, Israeli parts are

much higher quality than Korean parts, so Israeli exporters don't have to worry about a drop in their demand," he was quoted as saying in a meeting last week with Israel Export Institute director Amir Hayek and industrialists, including representatives from Tadiran Telecommunications, Israeli Aircraft Industries, and Orbotech.

However, Chung said there would be some decline in exports of consumer products to South

Korea, due to the devaluation of the won, and a subsequent drop in the standard of living.

Hayek told Chung that Israeli manufacturers are also concerned about competing against cheaper Asian products.

But Chung said the drop in prices of Korean materials would benefit Israeli industry. Moreover, he said, Israel and Korea do not compete in the same products in the world market. Korea's main exports are in vehicles and electronic equipment.

Regarding bilateral ties, Chung said that as a result of the success of the economic cooperation agreement between the countries, discussions are now being held on establishing a joint R&D fund. Chung noted that the drop in real estate prices and the value of companies in South Korea presents new opportunities for Israeli ventures in his country. Israel's exports to South Korea amount to 20 percent of its sales to the Far East, according to Chung.

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Ex-Scotland captain warns of 5 Nations split

LONDON (AP) — By the time the Italians join the Five Nations rugby union championship in 2000, the tournament might be down to just three countries.

France and England are getting so far ahead of Wales, Scotland and Ireland that critics say it's no longer a meaningful contest.

There's strong speculation that both the French and English may join up with the southern hemisphere rugby powerhouses, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia, in a rival competition by the time the Italians join.

The two best teams in Europe have both said

they want to maintain their improvements by playing regularly against teams which are better. They say that is the only way they will have any chance of winning the World Cup.

At present, they have to rely on rare visits from southern hemisphere teams or out-of-season tours to Australasia and South Africa, which usually only happen every four years.

France and England have shown consistently over the years that they are far better than the other three.

In their last game, England scored eight tries on the way to a championship record 60-26

victory over Wales at Twickenham last month, while France came away from Edinburgh with a 51-16 victory over Scotland.

Finlay Calder, who was on the Scottish team that won the Grand Slam in 1990 and captained a British Lions victory in Australia, watched that massacre at Murrayfield and despaired at the plight of Scottish rugby.

"People watch sport in the hope that the underdog can win," the former flank forward said. "But when the underdog has no chance of winning it becomes difficult to

remain enthusiastic.

"No one wants to watch a caning. One-sided matches, when one team puts 50 or 60 points on the other, are of no interest."

"France and England are playing such wonderful rugby, especially the French, that the rest are out of their depth."

"The Scottish, Irish and Welsh players are fighting not only for their survival but for the survival of the Five Nations," Calder said.

"I have to say that, if it carries on like this, it won't survive for very long. Scotland, Wales and Ireland are going to be cast aside."

Ronaldo penalty miss proves costly for Inter

ROME (Reuters) — Ronaldo missed a penalty as second-placed Inter Milan lost 1-0 to Parma yesterday and squandered a great chance to make ground on Serie A leaders Juventus, held 1-1 at Udinese.

Argentine Hernan Crespo scored Parma's winner, a spectacular half-volley, 11 minutes after Ronaldo had struck his spot kick too close to goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Inter's defeat allowed Juventus to move five points clear.

They needed an 89th minute goal from Alessandro Del Piero to grab the draw.

The reigning champions had looked destined for their second league defeat in three matches when Jonathan Bachini edged

Udinese in front in the 76th minute.

Florentina, without Argentine Gabriel Batistuta and Belgian Luis Oliveira — both on international duty — needed a second-half penalty from Domenico Morfeo to salvage a 1-1 home draw with Piacenza.

German Christian Ziege's second goal of the season against Sampdoria brought AC Milan a 1-0 victory that keeps alive their hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season.

Results yesterday: Bari 2, Empoli 0; Brescia 3, Lecce 2; Fiorentina 1, Piacenza 1; AC Milan 1, Sampdoria 0; Napoli 0, Bologna 0; AC Parma 1, Inter Milan 0; Udinese 1, Juventus 1; Vicenza 1, Atalanta 0.

Trevor Francis urged not to quit

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) — Trevor Francis will decide after a meeting with chairman David Gold today whether to bow to public pressure and remain as manager of Birmingham City.

Francis stunned the English first division club on Saturday night by resigning shortly

after the 1-0 win over Queens Park Rangers.

He was incensed that his wife Helen and 18-year-old son Matthew had been abused and threatened by drunken fans.

Gold immediately issued a "profuse apology" on behalf of the club and a personal plea

for Francis to reconsider.

"Everyone at the club is urging him to change his mind."

There is a marvellous opportunity before us and it shouldn't be ruined by yobs," said Gold.

"We are doing everything in our power to try and persuade him to stay."

Knauss wins super-G, Maier takes title

KVITFJELL, Norway (Reuters) — Austria's Hans Knauss won a super-G yesterday while compatriot and Olympic champion Hermann Maier secured the World Cup title in the discipline despite staying at home with back pains.

Knauss won the penultimate super-G of the season in a provisional time of one minute 30.80 seconds on the Kvitfjell course that staged the event in the 1994 Olympics, ahead of Sweden's Patrik Jaerbyn in 1:31.20.

Didier Cuche of Switzerland, who shared the super-

G silver medal with Knauss at the Nagano Olympics, was third in one minute 31.25.

Maier, who had won all four previous World Cup super-G races this season, secured the World Cup super-G title when his only possible challenger, teammate Stefan Eberharter, skidded out of the race. He was unhurt.

Maier, who won the overall World Cup title on Saturday after his only rival and compatriot Andreas Schifferer crashed out of the downhill in Kvitfjell, is the first Austrian man to win the super-G crown.

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SPORTS

in brief

Siemerink wins Rotterdam indoor title

ROTTERDAM (AP) — Dutchman Jan Siemerink claimed the third ATP singles title of his career yesterday, ousting Swede Thomas Johansson 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 in the final of the ABN AMRO indoor. Five top-

Hakkinen wins Aussie Grand Prix

Red Sox's Wakefield entering prime

FORT MYERS — He has been the best pitcher on the staff, he has been the worst pitcher on the staff. He has carried the team to a division title, he has teetered close to a minor league demotion.

Boston Red Sox right-hander Tim Wakefield built his major league career on his knuckleball, but the fluttering pitch has often betrayed him.

"After it leaves my hand, I have no control over it," Wakefield said. No wonder he's been insecure. Whether he's winning 14 games in a row, as he did in 1995, or leading the American League in losses, as he did last season with 15, Wakefield is unable to explain his performance. His trick pitch is as perplexing to him as it is to hitters.

Yet, he shrugged and smiled. In the past, Wakefield seemed almost intimidated by the pitch — depending on it, but never quite understanding it.

Eight years after converting from infielder to knuckleballer, though, Wakefield may at last be comfortable with his niche. He calls himself a "staff workhorse" and says his job is to provide the team with innings. His goal is to start both games of a twin bill and he's fantasized making 30 starts and 30 relief appearances in one season.

"I give the team flexibility," Wakefield said. After Pedro Martinez starts opening day, Wakefield will be No. 2. That's just about where Wakefield wants to be. He is 26-28 the past two years, but his 413 innings are the most on the team. While Wakefield may never recapture the magic of his 16-8, 2.95 ERA 1995 season, he may finally be establishing himself as a middle-of-the-rotation starter and occasional reliever.

Wakefield is 31, so he may be entering the prime of his career as a knuckleball pitcher. The precedent for long knuckleball careers was set by Phil Niekro, who pitched for 24 years.



CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL — Australian Grand Prix winner Mika Hakkinen (l) spritzes it up with third-place finisher Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

(Reuters)

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Mika Hakkinen of Finland continued where he left off in Jerez last October when he drove to victory for McLaren in a stunning season-opening Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park yesterday.

Hakkinen finished seven-tenths of a second ahead of his teammate Briton David Coulthard as the McLaren team dominated the 58-lap race and proved they will be the outfit to beat this season.

Their one-two triumph justified all the pre-race predictions that their Mercedes-Benz car, equipped with a controversial high-tech braking system criticized by their rivals, was superior to all else in the field.

The Finn took the lead from the start until a mistake by an engineer called him in for an unnecessary pit stop. But instead of stopping, he drove straight through the pit lane and back out in second place behind Coulthard.

But the Scot, in deference to a pre-race agreement, pulled over and let his teammate through to win with two laps remaining.

The two McLarens lapped the entire field and drove with such superiority it looked, as some of their rivals have claimed, as if they were running cars designed for an entirely different form of racing.

German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, in a Williams, finished third ahead of Briton Eddie Irvine in a Ferrari. Defending world champion Jacques Villeneuve of Canada came home fifth, fighting off a powerful challenge by Briton Johnny Herbert who finished sixth.

Former champion Michael Schumacher of Germany retired his Ferrari on the sixth lap when he suffered an engine failure and only nine of the field of 22 cars finished the race.

McLaren team boss Ron Dennis said: "It was David's decision to let Mika through to win. He was respecting an agreement that whoever was first into the first corner should win the race."

Hakkinen's win was his second in succession, the second of his career and the first by a car running on Japanese Bridgestone tyres, bringing to an end the

American Goodyear company's run of 109 successive victories.

Hakkinen said: "It didn't go according to plan. But the overall result, in the end, was what I wanted it to be. There was a lot of con-

fusion, which caused me to make an extra pit stop. It was a misunderstanding and it cost me the lead.

"But I want to say a big and special 'thank you very much' to David because what he did was

very fair and very excellent team work. I am not saying it because I won, but because we have a very special relationship.

"I am sure we will look back in history and say there have not

been many drivers who have been doing this."

Coulthard agreed that the two drivers had an agreement. "We have got a lot closer since the Jerez race and had agreed that

whoever got into the first corner first, if the race was normal, would not be challenged by the other one. The team told me what had happened to Mika on the radio and I let him through."

Lindros suffers concussion in Flyers' loss to Penguins

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jaromir Jagr set up third-period goals by Alexei Morozov and Martin Stastka as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat Philadelphia 6-4 Saturday and knocked Flyers captain Eric Lindros out of the game with a concussion in the second period.

Lindros left the game at 8:48 of the second period when he was hit by defenseman Darius Kasparaitis. Lindros was near the blue line and had his head down when Kasparaitis hit him in the face with his shoulder with a clean check. Lindros, who leads the Flyers with 67 points, had to be helped from the ice and did not return.

Lindros was transported to a hospital for evaluation. He walked to the ambulance under his own power. Flyers General Manager Bob Clarke said during the second intermission that the hit was clean.

Kings 2, Red Wings 1
Rob Blake scored the first two goals of the game, one on a shot from the red line and the other on a power play, as Los Angeles ended a three-game winless streak with a home victory.

It was the ninth two-goal game for the eight-year veteran defenseman, who is still looking for his first hat-trick. Blake, plagued by injuries that limited him to 92 games over the previous three seasons, is the only one on the team to play in each of their 61 games.

Blues 2, Stars 1
Pierre Turgeon scored with nine minutes remaining to lead St. Louis to a home win.

The game had been tied since 7:24 of the first period before Turgeon scored on a slap shot from the left circle to beat goaltender Ed Belfour.

Capitals 6, Panthers 3
Host Washington exploded out of their worst losing streak in eight years, scoring four goals on five shots in the third period.

In a game between two teams that hadn't won since January, Joe Juneau had two goals and two assists, Richard Zednik scored twice, and Peter Bondra scored for the first time in a month as the Capitals broke a six-game losing streak and extended the Panthers' losing run to five.

Devils 6, Rangers 3
Krzysztof Oliva scored his first NHL goal to trigger a three-goal, third-period outburst and New Jersey extended its unbeaten streak to 10 games with a home win.

BThe setback spoiled Wayne Gretzky's 1,000th NHL goal (378 regular season, 122 playoffs), a power-play score that tied the game at 3-3 in the second period.

Blackhawks 2, Bruins 1
Eric Daze's 24th goal broke a 1-

tie and gave Chicago Blackhawks an away victory. Chicago ended a three-game winless streak while the Bruins lost for the first time in six games since returning from the Olympic lull.

Daze's rebound of his own shot with 5:02 left in the second period slipped off the pads of Bruins goalie Byron Dufoe and into the net for a power-play goal and a 2-1 Blackhawks advantage.

Avalanche 4, Islanders 2
Defenseman Sandis Ozolinsh scored a power-play goal and assisted on three other power-play goals as Colorado won on the road.

Peter Forsberg added a goal and assist for Colorado, and Valery Kamensky and Keith Jones also scored. It was the fourth straight game that Forsberg recorded at

Chicago.
Boston 1, Chicago Black 9 (Oleksiak, 4:34, 2, Boston, Samsonov 14 (Bourque, Allison), 7:57 (pp)).
Second Period—3, Chicago, Dore 24 (Wernick), 14:58 (pp). Third Period—None.
Goalies—Chicago, Hecstet, Boston, Dore, A-17,045.

Philadelphia 2, Pittsburgh 12 (Ninnes, Coffey), 3:45, 2, Pittsburgh, Barnes 26 (Francis, Jagr), 12:51, 3, Philadelphia, Sirovich 28 (Coffey, Niemi), 14:32 (pp).
Second Period—4, Philadelphia, Sirovich 13 (Francis, Theriot), 2:55 (pp), Pittsburgh, Francis 20 (Barnes, Hatcher), 5:58 (pp), Philadelphia, Lindros 28 (Coffey, Desjardins), 7:59 (pp), 7, Pittsburgh, Sirovich 28 (Francis, Oczko), 8:50 (pp).
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Trashed Nagano rooms 'blown out of all proportion'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a forceful postgame tirade, US Olympic hockey coach Ron Wilson said Saturday the vandalism caused by some of his players in Nagano is getting "blown out of proportion big time" and that the culprits will probably never own up to it.

"We may as well bring in Kenneth Starr on this," said Wilson, referring to the Whitewater-Monica Lewinsky prosecutor.

So far, no player has accepted responsibility for the damage done to three Olympic Village rooms following the US team's unexpected early elimination in Nagano. The NHL came up empty when it interviewed all 23 players on the team, and the US Olympic Committee threatened last week to punish all the players by suspending them from future Olympics and not inviting them to the White House with the rest of the US Olympians next month.

"Putting a bunch of threats together, I think that solidifies a team or prevents anybody from coming forward. I'd like to see the one or two people who are involved to come forward, but I'd just be speculating as to who they are. I wasn't there," said Wilson.

"A lot of people are jumping on a bandwagon without really knowing exactly what happened or what went on. 'One day you read it's \$1,000 worth of damage, and the same newspaper two days later it's \$3,000 worth of damage,'" said Wilson, his voice rising. "Then it's three fire extinguishers, then it's six chairs. What is it? So let's add them all up and make it even bigger than it was. ... Wilson said that two chairs were broken in his room, but it was because they collapsed under the weight of the people sitting on them."

Phoenix (AP) — The Houston Rockets beat the Phoenix Suns, but probably lost Hakeem Olajuwon for their next game.

Olajuwon had 20 points and 13 rebounds before getting ejected for exchanging punches with Antonio McDyess as the Rockets defeated the Suns 108-89 Saturday night.

Olajuwon likely will be suspended for tonight's game at Utah. "It was unfortunate but that's part of the game," Olajuwon said. "The rule is automatic suspension for fighting but we will see what the league says."

"Without the big guy in Utah, it will hurt. It's a shame too, because the game was already decided when it happened," said Matt Bullard, who matched his season high with 20 points.

With Houston leading 105-87 with 2:08 remaining, Olajuwon and McDyess got tangled up under the Phoenix basket. After some jawing back and forth, McDyess threw a punch, Olajuwon retaliated and both were ejected.

Houston's Mario Elie left the bench and also may be suspended. The melee ended with Rockets forward Charles Barkley playfully putting Suns coach Danny Ainge in a headlock at halfcourt.

"We're going to miss Hakeem," Barkley said. "It was stupid."

McDyess needs to realize that he is in a 24-point blowout. If it was me, I'd rather save that money. I grabbed Ainge because he was the only guy out there on the court that I knew couldn't hurt anybody."

Olajuwon had 16 points and eight rebounds in the first half as the Rockets took a 55-51 lead. Drexler had 14 points in the half and finished the game with 21.

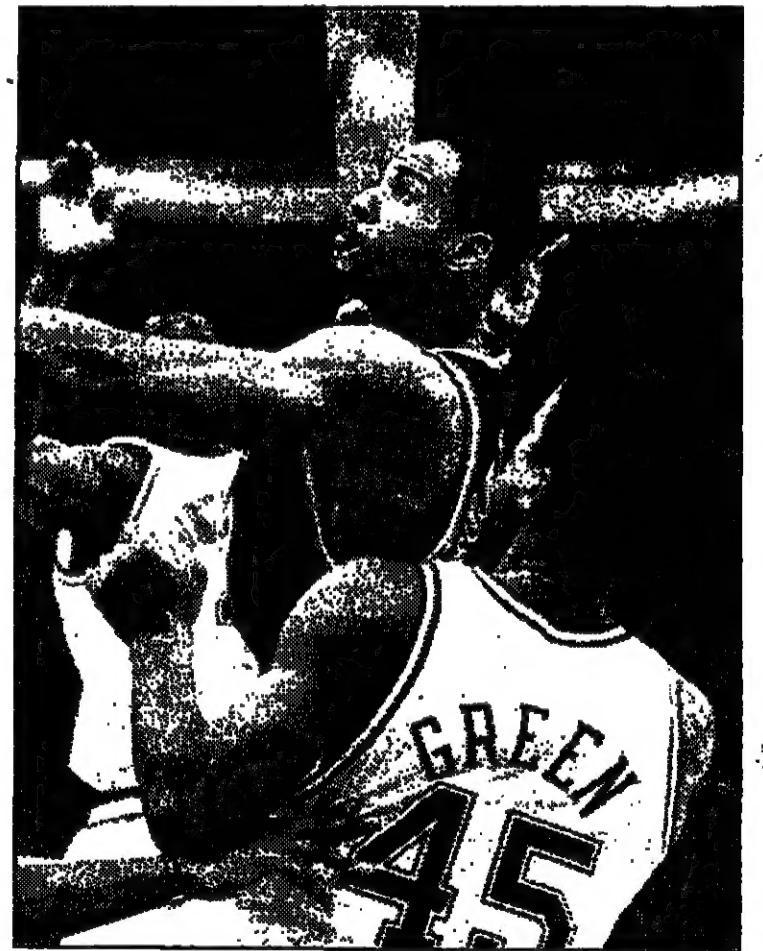
Kevin Johnson had 19 points and 10 assists for Phoenix.

Jazz 110, Bucks 92
Karl Malone scored 40 points as visiting Utah beat undermanned Milwaukee for their sixth straight victory.

Malone scored more than 30 points for the third straight game and Utah won for the 14th time in 16 games. Adam Keefe added 16 points for the Jazz, who completed a five-game road trip without a loss.

Ray Allen led the Bucks with 27 points.

Heat 94, Mavericks 88
Tim Hardaway scored 27 points and Alonzo Mourning had 21 points and 16 rebounds as Miami extended its road winning streak to 11.



FEELING THE HEAT — Miami's Alonzo Mourning scores two as Dallas's AC Green looks on. The Heat won 94-88.

(Reuters)

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Knicks | 43 | 19 | .694 | — |
| New York | 34 | 25 | .576 | 7 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 33 | 28 | .541 | 9 1/2 |
| Orlando | 31 | 29 | .517 | 11 |
| Washington | 30 | 30 | .500 | 11 1/2 |
| Boston | 29 | 31 | .483 | 13 |
| Philadelphia | 21 | 37 | .362 | 20 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| Chicago | 44 | 16 | .733 | — |
| Indiana | 42 | 18 | .700 | 2 |
| Charlotte | 37 | 23 | .617 | 7 |
| Atlanta | 35 | 24 | .593 | 8 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 32 | 28 | .533 | 12 |
| Memphis | 29 | 30 | .492 | 14 1/2 |
| Detroit | 23 | 36 | .389 | 21 |
| Toronto | 13 | 46 | .220 | 30 1/2 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Utah | 43 | 16 | .729 | — |
| San Antonio | 40 | 20 | .667 | 3 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 37 | 23 | .617 | 6 1/2 |
| Phoenix | 34 | 26 | .567 | 9 1/2 |
| Vancouver | 30 | 30 | .500 | 13 1/2 |
| Dallas | 14 | 45 | .237 | 29 |
| Denver | 5 | 56 | .082 | 39 |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| Seattle | 45 | 15 | .750 | — |
| L.A. Lakers | 41 | 18 | .693 | 3 1/2 |
| Phoenix | 39 | 21 | .650 | 6 |
| Portland | 34 | 24 | .586 | 10 |
| Sacramento | 26 | 36 | .419 | 20 |
| Golden State | 15 | 47 | .217 | 31 |
| L.A. Clippers | 12 | 47 | .203 | 32 1/2 |

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Olajuwon dukes it out

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'5 Nations may split'

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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Ra'anana humiliates Maccabi by 22 points

By ELI GRONER

In an evening replete with upsets in the National Basketball League, none was more shocking than Maccabi Ra'anana's 95-73 thrashing of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

It wasn't just that Ra'anana won; it was how it won. Despite a slow start and poor three-point shooting throughout (2 for 15), the Ra'ananas humiliated the league champions, just four days before Tel Aviv's biggest game of the year — the EuroLeague final-16 rubber game at Teanysystem Bologna.

Tomer Steinhilber was unstoppable. Last year's league MVP played an extremely smart game, mixing it up both in the paint and outside. Steinhilber's 27 points, 11 rebounds and five assists performance was unquestionably his best game of the season, and perhaps of his career.

Ra'anana used the same recipe for success that it has all year: teamwork and ball control. Arik Shitbak's club had a phenomenal 23-3 assist to turnover ratio.

The game's turning point came towards the beginning of the second half. With Ra'anana up 62-57, the defending champions proceeded to blow two consecutive fast break opportunities. Meanwhile, Mark Brisker (20 points) converted five total points on the other end, pushing Ra'anana to a double-digit lead.

At that point, it seemed that Maccabi lost interest. It was actually painful to watch good players, who are in the midst of such a well-played series in the EuroLeague, look so bad.

The Tel Avivians not only lost the game, they embarrassed themselves, and displayed the team's worst tendencies: Randy White fouled out with nine minutes remaining in the game; Oded Katash refused to play with any semblance of responsibility — leading to a dreadful 2 for 15 performance; and poor decisions by the ball-distributors (Katash and Doron Sheffer). Proof positive: Rashard Griffith and Borko Radovich shot a combined 86 percent (1) from the field, yet together, they didn't get as many shots as Katash.

Griffith paced Maccabi with 21 points.

Other scores last night: Hap. Holon 91, Givat Shmuel 87; Kiryat Motzkin 90, Galil Elyon 88; Mac. Netanya 94, Ramat Gan 85; Hap. Eilat 98, Hap. Jerusalem 91; Rishon LeZion 90, Bnei Herzliya 79.

| Spritz Basketball League | P | W | L | Pts. |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|------|
| Maccabi Tel Aviv | 19 | 15 | 4 | 34 |
| Maccabi Ra'anana | 19 | 14 | 5 | 37 |
| Hapoel Eilat | 19 | 13 | 6 | 32 |
| Ramat Ramat | 19 | 12 | 7 | 31 |
| Galil Elyon | 19 | 11 | 8 | 30 |
| Maccabi Rishon | 19 | 11 | 8 | 30 |
| Bnei Herzliya | 19 | 9 | 10 | 28 |
| Hapoel Ramat | 19 | 7 | 12 | 26 |
| Kiryat Motzkin | 19 | 7 | 12 | 26 |
| Givat Shmuel | 19 | 6 | 13 | 25 |
| Hapoel Holon | 19 | 5 | 14 | 24 |
| Maccabi Netanya | 19 | 4 | 15 | 23 |

West Ham, Arsenal draw 1-1

LONDON (Reuters) — West Ham defender Ian Pearce scored and then conceded a penalty at Arsenal yesterday as a lively all-London English FA Cup quarter-final ended in a 1-1 draw and shuffles after the final whistle.

The burly Pearce gave the east Londoners a 12th minute lead on a cold and blustery afternoon at Highbury, meeting a corner with a left-footed shot just inside the penalty area that flew past Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger.

But 14 minutes later he sent Martin Keown sprawling in the box with some sloppy defending. Dutch World Cup striker Dennis Bergkamp made no mistake from the penalty spot, shooting confidently to the left of French keeper Bernard Lama.

After the final whistle, Arsenal's French midfielder Patrick Vieira was involved in a clash with West Ham's midfielder John Moncur although referee Mike Reed and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger saw nothing.

Video replays showed Vieira apparently trying to stamp on Moncur as the whistle went and Moncur then heading the Frenchman's chest. The Arsenal man tried to land a blow and scuffling broke out as others intervened.

A West Ham win largely looked remote although they could have been 2-0 up after 23 minutes when Australian Stan Lazaridis found Eyal Berkovic in the area but the well-placed Israeli stumbled.

The two Premier League teams will now replay at Upton Park on March 17 with the winners due to face first division Wolverhampton in the semifinals on April 5.



UP, UP AND AWAY — Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich rises high above his defence to clear the ball during the Premiership match with Chelsea yesterday. Villa won 1-0.

Newcastle 3, Barnsley 1

In the other FA Cup quarter-final yesterday, Newcastle United out-battled Barnsley to reach the last four for the first time in 24 years when they beat Barnsley 3-1 at St James's Park.

It was, in fact, something of an occasion for first with Newcastle's opening two goals coming from Gary Speed, his first for the club, and Temuri Ketsbaia, his first in the competition.

Ketsbaia, making his first start since mid-December, was playing only because of the head injury suf-

fered by Keith Gillespie on United's recent ill-fated jaunt to Dublin.

There was, however, little sign of ring-rust in the 16th minute, when the Georgian international pounced on Robert Lee's square pass and poked the ball between the legs of David Watson.

While TV replays later hinted at off-side, there no such doubts concerning Newcastle's second 10 minutes later. Lee was again the provider, finding Andreas Andersson in space and although the Swede's powerful shot was blocked, Speed was on hand to convert the rebound.

North Carolina beats Duke in regular-season finale

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — The latest in a long line of championships for No. 4 North Carolina was all about revenge and resiliency.

The Tar Heels (30-3) won their 15th Atlantic Coast Conference tournament yesterday by beating No. 1 Duke 83-68, capping a three-day run in which they defeated all three teams they lost to during the regular season.

North Carolina advanced to the finals with an 83-73 overtime win against No. 21 Maryland 73; and Duke edged Clemson 66-64.

Antawn Jamison, playing with a painful groin injury, was the hero as he has been all season for his team, scoring 22 points and grabbing a season-high 18 rebounds.

Michigan 76, Purdue 67

The 3-pointers weren't falling, so the "Tractor" dominated inside. And Michigan made history. Robert Traylor bulled his 300-pound body over, past and through defenders for 24 points, 13 rebounds and MVP honors as No. 17 Michigan won the inaugural Big Ten tournament by beating No. 9 Purdue 76-67 yesterday.

The No. 17 Wolverines advanced to the finals with an 85-69 win over Minnesota while No. 9 Purdue whipped No. 18 Illinois 68-47.

No. 7 Kentucky 86

No. 15 South Carolina 56

No. 7 Kentucky won the Southeastern Conference tournament for the sixth time in seven years yesterday, rolling to an 86-56 victory over No. 15 South Carolina, the Wildcats' third straight double-figure victory.

De Villiers destroys Pakistan with 6-23

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuters) — Devastating fast bowling from South Africa's Fanie de Villiers, a day after announcing his retirement from first-class cricket, and Allan Donald destroyed Pakistan in the third and final Test yesterday.

De Villiers captured six for 23 and Donald took four for 47 as Pakistan were routed for 106 — 187 behind on first innings — on the third day at St George's Park.

South Africa were 94 for two in their second innings at the close — an overall lead of 281 with eight wickets and two days remaining.

Despite the loss of the entire second day due to rain, the home side are now firm favorites to square the series.

South Africa added 31 to their overnight 262 for seven at the start of the day, with Mark Boucher progressing from 27 to 52, his third half-century in successive Tests against Pakistan.

Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram shared the last three wickets for a combined haul of nine, but South Africa's two pacemen went one better and shared all 10 in a dismal Pakistan batting effort that lasted just 40.5 overs.

Kentucky advanced to the semifinals with a 99-74 win over Arkansas on Saturday, and South Carolina stopped No. 10 Mississippi 87-77.

Tournament MVP Wayne Turner scored 18 points and Allen Edwards, who missed the semifinal while attending his mother's funeral, returned to add 15 as Kentucky (29-4) added another SEC championship to its already bountiful collection.

No. Kansas 91, Nebraska 59

Rafael LaFrentz hit another career milestone as No. 3 Kansas scored 32 of the game's first 40 points en route to a 91-59 home rout of Nebraska in the semifinals of the Big 12 tournament.

The two-time Big 12 player of the year, bothered all week by a sore shoulder, scored 19 points and became the second player in Kansas history — and the 85th in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association — with more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

No. 2 Arizona 91

No. 19 UCLA 87

Michael Dickerson scored 30 points — two off his career high — as No. 2 visiting Arizona avoided its second straight upset loss.

With University of California at Los Angeles ahead 85-84, A.J. Bramlett put back Mike Bibby's miss to give Arizona its first lead of the game at 1:38. Kris Johnson scored inside for what turned out to be UCLA's final basket and last lead at 87-86.

Miles Simon, who scored five points in a 91-90 overtime loss to Southern California on Thursday,

added 20 points for the Wildcats.

No. 6 Connecticut 69

No. 22 Syracuse 64

Visiting Connecticut's bench and defense brought it a third Big East tournament championship.

The top-seeded Huskies, who won the regular-season by two games, struggled offensively for the third straight game but still came away with a victory over second-seeded Syracuse.

No. 14 Cincinnati 71

No. Charlotte 57

Kenyon Martin had five points and a block in a decisive second-half run that carried host Cincinnati to the Conference USA tournament championship.

Cincinnati (26-5) won its sixth conference tournament title in seven years by exploiting its home court advantage and its depth against UNC Charlotte (19-10).

UNLV 56, No. 20

New Mexico 51

Tyrone Nesby hit a short jumper to put the University of Nevada at Las Vegas ahead, then clinched it with two free throws with 9.9 seconds left as the host Rebels beat New Mexico in the Western Athletic Conference tournament.

Before a frenzied home crowd, UNLV (20-12) scored the last nine points of the game to cap an improbable run and gain an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991.

No. 11 Stanford 85

Oregon St. 77

Arthur Lee had 27 points and 10 assists as host Stanford defeated injury-depleted Oregon State.

Kris Weems and Mark Madsen added 16 points each for Stanford.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD — Reggie White shows how to protect his flock on a trip to the Holyland Hotel yesterday. Sarah White is at right.

(Sharon Gershoni)

GREEN BAY

Continued from Page 1

"I wasn't a problem teenager," he says, "but I was so big early on that I found people were afraid of me. Nobody had the guts to tell me what to do."

But then he rediscovered his faith. Some ministers, he notes, will pressure a Christian to become reborn to reap the benefits afterwards, but White's approach is the opposite. "First we are there to help, listen, advise. Only after the healing process has begun, do we show the way to let Jesus back in their life."

He is quick to point out that he is not a missionary. "We deal with people who have been raised as Christians, but somewhere along the line lost their way."

But most of the brave souls who accompanied him, his wife Sandra, and two children, were not in need of being returned to the fold. They were well-heeled residents of Wisconsin, predominantly from the Green Bay and Milwaukee areas, who had come to see Israel for the first time.

"It's an awesome place," said Glen Morrison of Wisconsin

Rapids. "My view of Israel before I came was that it was a rocky, desert-like place. I am amazed at the lushness of some of the terrain."

Others were impressed by how such a small country could be claimed as a holy spot by three faiths.

They were undismayed by the recent war threats which gripped the region. "We were determined to make this trip now," White said with the same single-mindedness that has led him to become the NFL's all-time sack leader.

His interest as a minister developed gradually through his two years in the USFL and seven more with the Philadelphia Eagles. It has increased as he inevitably approaches the end of his pro career. At 36, he finds it more and more difficult to keep taking the lumps dished out every Sunday.

"In the good old days, before offensive linemen could use their hands, we [the defense] had it easier. But critics began to wait that games which were not high-scoring affairs were 'ugly.' When the offensive line was permitted to start holding and hugging to live up the scoring, life got more difficult for us."

When he will finally hang up his cleats is still a well-kept secret.

Barnsley had offered stern resistance — a total of nine players were booked — but little direct threat in the first 45 minutes, a feature which was to change with the second-half introduction of Martin Barlow.

After 57 minutes, he sped down the left flank and centered to Andy Liddell who side-footed home from 10 yards out.

Having fought their way back, the cause of the visitors was promptly undone when Adrian Moses was dismissed for a second bookable offence, both awarded for fouls on Alan Shearer.

Newcastle wrapped up the scoring with their third goal in the 90th minute when David Batty fired the ball home from the left hand corner of the penalty area.

United will face either Coventry or Sheffield United in the semifinals.

Aston Villa 1, Chelsea 0

In the only Premier League game yesterday, relegation-threatened Aston Villa scored a 1-0 win at title-chasing Chelsea.

Julian Joachim scored the only goal after 51 minutes at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea produced few chances to worry Villa's Australian goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich.

The result eased Villa's relegation worries and moved John Gregory's team up one place to 13th.

It also meant that Chelsea failed to move up to third place from fifth in the Premier League.

Scotland

A last minute own goal by Dundee United's Erik Pedersen handed Celtic a 3-2 win and a place in the semifinal of the Scottish Cup. Celtic, aiming for a domestic treble after winning the League Cup and leading the Premier Division, trailed 2-1.

Division one Falkirk and Premier Division Hearts also made it to the last four by winning Saturday while Rangers face division one Dundee today. Division one Falkirk upset Premier Division St. Johnstone 3-0 while Hearts overpowered first division Ayr 4-1.

Balance deficit shra

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